Kilili casts first votes: more disaster aid. PAGE 3
Final distribution of Yutu relief supplies this weekend. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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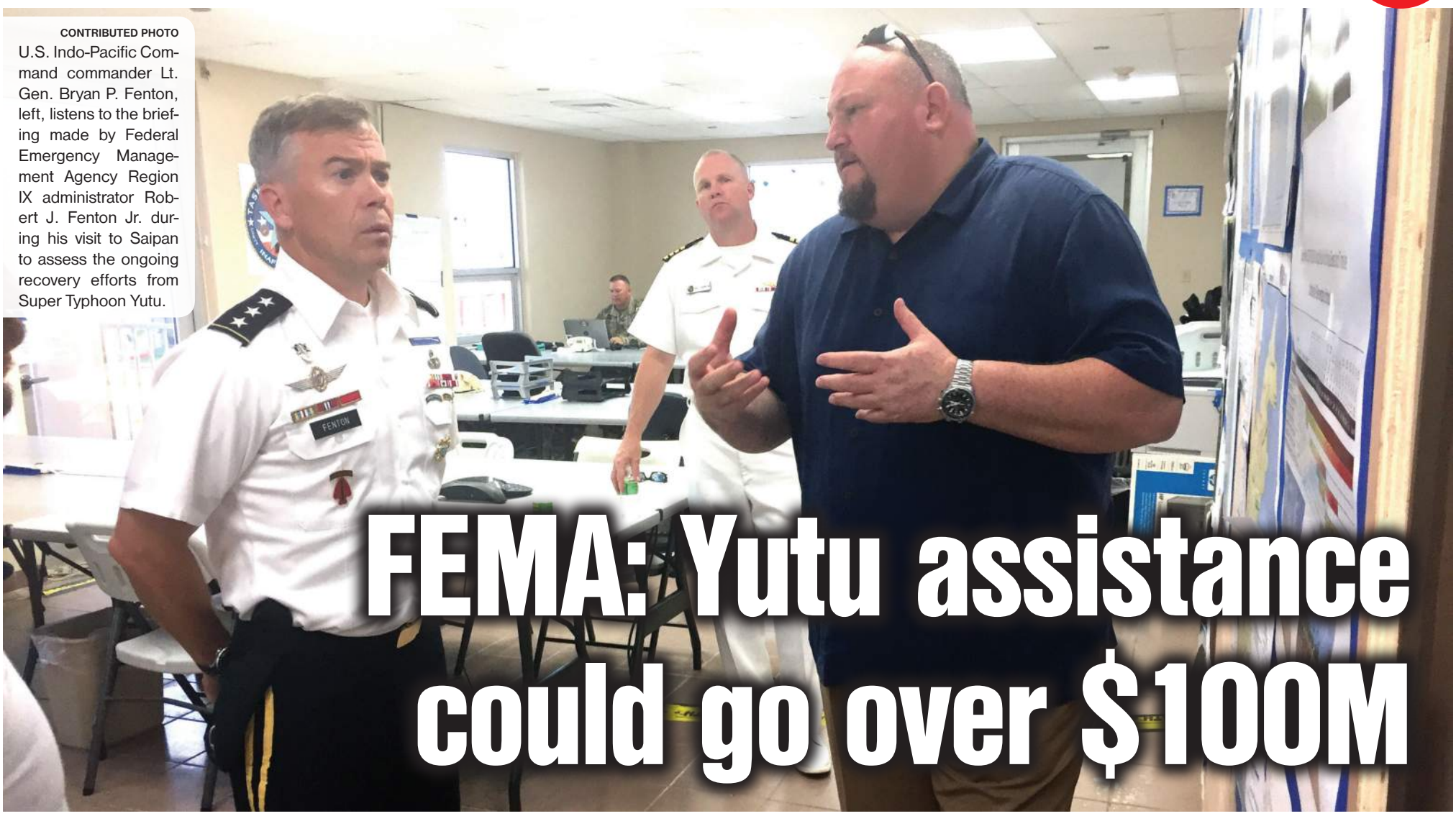

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
U.S. Indo-Pacific Command commander Lt. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton, left, listens to the briefing made by Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX administrator Robert J. Fenton Jr. during his visit to Saipan to assess the ongoing recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu.

FEMA: Yutu assistance could go over $100M

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» FEMA also eye building typhoon-resilient homes

Recovery assistance provided by federal agencies involved in the ongoing Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts could go way beyond the $100-million mark with hardening the local infrastructure and building typhoon-resilient homes also being planned to be funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA had already disbursed over $21 million for homeowners and individuals that were qualified to avail of their assistance or a total of 9,331 that registered on their website. The money was used for rental assistance and other needs for homeowners.

The U.S. Small Business Administration, which offers low-interest

See YUTU on Page 4

CUC back providing 24-hour water supply on Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho said they are now back providing 24-hour water supply on Saipan.

"Every customer should be receiving water to some extent," said Camacho in an interview last Wednesday.

He said if the pipes of their customers is broken or damaged then of course they would not get water supply.

"We have enough water supply. We should be supplying water to everybody," the executive director pointed out.

Camacho said every place should

See CUC on Page 4

House special election after funeral, memorial

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) has formally and officially informed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres of the vacancy at the lower chamber brought by the death of Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan). He sent the letter last Tuesday with Torres expected to declare a special election for the lone seat within 30 days.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez and administrative officer Kayla S. Igitol visited the

See HOUSE on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
The shutdown has brought an outpouring of generosity to the Transportation Safety Administration agents and other federal employees who are working without pay.
PAGE 20

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Scientists have used a nearly 300-million-year old fossil skeleton and preserved ancient footprints to create a moving robot model of prehistoric life.
PAGE 24

LIFE & STYLE
Steve Carell is starring in a new workplace comedy that could be out of this world.
PAGE 25

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Local

Absence of dual license plates will result in citation

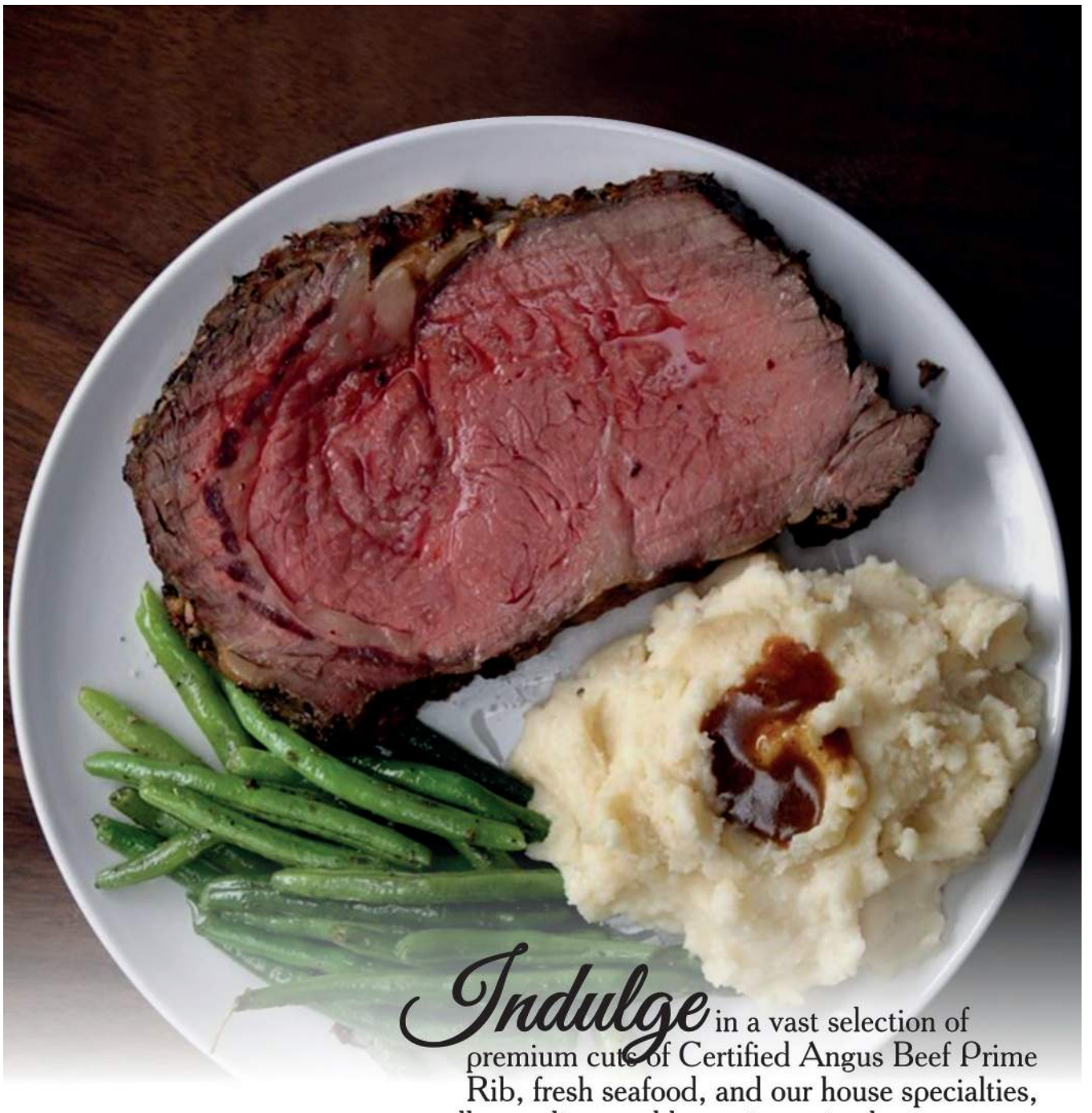
The Department of Public Safety will be issuing citations for those individuals who have been driving around without one or both license plates.

As a result of Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts, the Department of Public Safety has been stretched out to ensure safety day in and day out as power is being restored and as the island returns to normalcy.

Now, since over 80 percent of the island has been re-energized and as burglaries and typhoon-related misdemeanors continue to die down, the department can go back to enforcement of other local traffic laws like license plates.

According to a source at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, it has always been in the local Commonwealth law that both license plates should be installed on any vehicle.

DPS officers have been more vigilant in enforcing this law because, according to the source, street racing has become rampant on the island. Through enforcing this law, officers will be able to catch those participating in street racing and run the plates. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***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Kilili casts first votes: more disaster aid

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) cast his first votes in the U.S. House of Representatives yestedrday in favor of a series of amendments to a disaster aid bill. Sablan had two amendments approved. One makes $36 million available for the Marianas Medicaid program this year. The second added $15 million for the Marianas food stamp program for a total of $25.2 million in disaster food aid.

This was Sablan's first time to vote since 2010, when Democrats were last in the majority. Rules adopted by Democrats for the new Congress allow delegates and the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico to vote when a bill is being amended on the floor of the House, as the disaster aid bill was yesterday. Sablan also chaired part of the debate.

Over 50 members of Congress submitted amendments to the disaster supplemental appropriation, H.R. 268. But in a hearing on Tuesday the Rules Committee allowed only 15 amendments to go to the floor for debate and a vote. Two of the 15 were Sablan's.

Sablan set out his goals for disaster assistance for the Marianas, above and beyond what the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides, in an eight-page letter to House and Senate appropriators in November. Republicans passed a disaster bill last Dec. 21 with much of what Sablan asked. Now that Democrats are in the majority Sablan has become even more involved in the specifics of the bill.

» $36M for Marianas Medicaid, $25.2M for food stamps

"The Republican bill provided no money for Medicaid for the Marianas," Sablan said during debate on his amendment yesterday. The new Democratic chairman of the Committee, Nita Lowey of New York, corrected that by making $20 million available to the Marianas for this year in the bill she introduced on Jan. 8.

After the chairman introduced her bill, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services informed congressional appropriators that the Marianas could use $36 million in the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. Sablan successfully added an additional $16 million to raise the total to that recommended amount.

Sablan also added $15 million for the Marianas food stamp program. The December bill had $9 million to cover the cost of the first 30 days of disaster food aid. And Lowey's bill raised that to $10.2 million.

During yesterday's floor debate, Sablan explained money was also needed to keep the program funded in the months ahead, when households that lost income because of the typhoons would be eligible for assistance.

"People need help until they can back on their feet," Sablan said. "For some families it could be months before they are able to pay their bills and take care of themselves. I want to make sure there is plenty of federal money for food aid in 2019."

The House-passed legislation now goes to the Senate for consideration. ***(PR)***

Guam aims to donate to Yutu relief during Hot Pepper festival

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Members of the Guam community aim to donate $10,000 to Tinian's Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts during its annual Hot Pepper [Pika] festival.

According to Guam Sen. Will Castro, it is currently in the works, but members of all municipalities in Guam are adamant about raising $10,000 or $10,000 worth of relief goods for Tinian's post Yutu relief recovery efforts.

"In response to Super Typhoon Yutu, we put together a small team in the spirit of One Marianas. We had three boat missions to bring relief goods to Tinian, which as we all understand, irrefutably was the hardest impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu," he said.

Castro said 10 boats are expected to arrive on Tinian on February, just in time for the festival, carrying Guam's mayors and its relief donations.

"From [Feb.] 15-17 we're going to bring 10 boats out

See GUAM on Next Page

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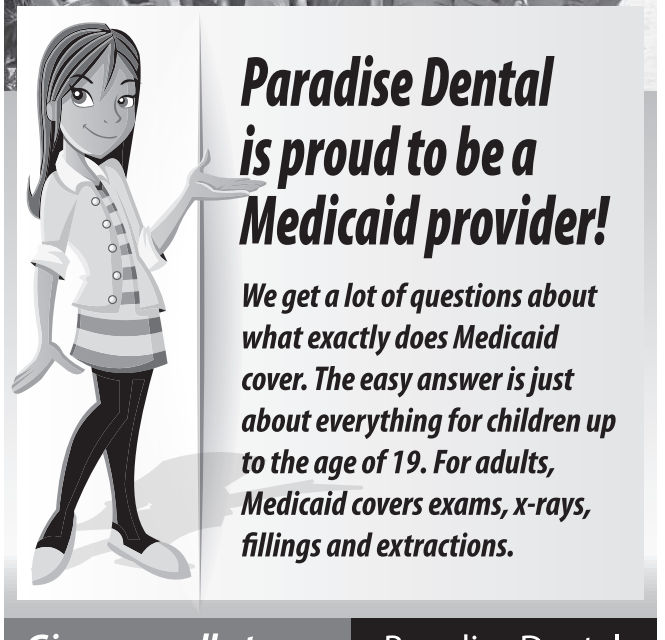
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House committee chairmanships all set

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 21st House of Representatives continues to organize itself with House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) formally appointing members of the local Republican Party as chairs of the 10 committees that will oversee all legislation that could directly have an impact to the people of the CNMI.

The appointment was just to formalize things after the Republican majority already chose their leaders in a caucus last month where Attao was chosen as the new speaker, and Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) as vice speaker. Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan) was elected as House floor leader.

The local GOP holds 12 of the 20 seats in the House. They originally grabbed 13 after the general elections in November until the untimely passing of Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz, who died last Jan. 6 in Tinian.

Two-term representative Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) will move from being the Judiciary and Governmental Operations chair to head the powerful Ways and Means, the committee that is tasked to take on the CNMI government's fiscal year budget and other bills on funding and other appropriations.

Blanco's JGO post went to freshman lawmaker Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan), a former senior legislative assistant with the Legislative Bureau, of Precinct 4, while Rep. Antonio SN Borja (R-Tinian) will chair the Natural Resources Committee.

Rep. Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan) will remain the Health Committee chair with the Welfare portfolio, previously held by former representative Francisco C. Aguon in the 20th House, and was renamed Human Services. Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) retains his post as Commerce and Tourism Committee chair.

KEVIN CALIBO

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), center presides over their organizational session last Monday at the House chamber inside the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

Former Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), another neophyte House member, will head the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee, while vice speaker Deleon Guerrero is the interim chair of the Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

The late representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz previously chaired PUC in the 20th Legislature with Transportation being created as a separate committee that was then headed by former representative Donald C. Barcinas.

Former CNMI State Board of Education chair Roman C. Benavente (R-Saipan) returns to chair the Education committee after losing his reelection bid for a seat in the 20th Legislature. He previously served in the 18th and 19th House as a member of the independent bloc.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) will take the reins of the Gaming Committee that monitors the casino and laws relating to the new industry, while Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) was given the new Cannabis Committee to look into legislation pertaining to the new industry created by Public Law 20-66.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst leads the independent bloc as the minority leader. Reps. Joseph A. Flores (Precinct 1), Tina Sablan (Precinct 2), Edmund S. Villagomez (Precinct 3), Sheila J. Babauta (Precinct 4), Richard T. Lizama (Precinct 5), and Donald M. Manglona (Precinct 7) are the other members of the minority bloc.

YUTU

From Page 1

loans, had already approved over $70 million in loans—both for homes and business economic disaster injury loans. Most of the loans were provided to business and home owners, and renters that were severely impacted after Super Typhoon Yutu barreled through Saipan and Tinian in October.

Typhoon Mangkhut was also part of the SBA's loan program for the island of Rota where they had approved 56 home and business loans as of the last numbers they provided early this month.

FEMA Region IX administrator Robert J. Fenton Jr. said more federal dollars are expected to pour in to the CNMI as they plan to build typhoon-resilient structures that could minimize the damage in an event another mega storm passes through the Commonwealth.

He also assured that disaster assistance programs in the CNMI are not affected by the ongoing federal government shutdown in Washington, D.C. since disaster relief funds are different appropriation. Majority of FEMA personnel in the Commonwealth are also getting paid.

Fenton, in an interview yesterday, said they are looking to assist disaster survivors that suffered major damage in their homes in either repairing or rebuilding their houses from the ground up. "And we see potentially that there's about 500 people that fall into those categories from Yutu."

Those who are qualified to avail of the program are U.S. citizens who are home owners and not renters, their house suffered major damage, they are uninsured, and should establish that they own the property or are living in it.

Fenton said they had already communicated with some of the qualified individuals to explain to the program. "We are reaching out to them, one-on-one in order to understand their interest. If we move forward with the program, we would hire the contractors that would permanently repair their house or we would rebuild it."

He added that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, in their respective inaugural addresses, said that there's a need for resiliency and the need to look into the future on how structures in the CNMI are built.

"The key thing here is to tighten some of the building codes. You see that in Guam where they adopted recent international building codes. So, I think the CNMI should do the same thing. If we have an event like this in the future we won't have this much damage. Adopting those codes will be important. One thing that we bring now is the funding to help people rebuild and repair," said Fenton.

"Bring additional money through mitigation funds, and so we will be using that to help CNMI become resilient. There are a lot of areas where we wanted to build resiliency. What should be done is assess what they did in Guam, see what they use here, and have a discussion. Get engineers, architects, and local officials together, and talk about resources available. From there make the best decision that fits."

Fenton said the building codes used in Guam should be used as a starting point. "Then refine it on what best suits the geography and conditions here. So, there may be some modifications here. For engineers and architects locally to have input as well, and then have some outside support. I think you look at other Pacific jurisdictions and see what works there."

Guam is a good example that we've seen that go through the same but suffer little damage to their residential areas. We must do something to improve that. Hardening the residential houses would decrease the need for sheltering during storms. How do we become smarter and better prepared in case of another event like this? We need to do is invest in resiliency and hardening."

Government structures are also part of FEMA's typhoon-resiliency program with already 24 government entities identified as eligible applicants to avail of the said program.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Governor's Office yesterday morning, most probably to meet with Torres' chief of staff Angel A. Demapan to discuss the issue on Attao's letter and the special elections.

Article II, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution states that a special election must be held to fill the vacancy in the Legislature if one half or more of the term remains. Special elections are subject to the call of the governor as stated in Title 1 of the CNMI Code, Division 6, Section 6502 (d) where an election must be held within 30 days of the date of vacancy.

The Governor's Office is expected to declare the date of the special election after the funeral of Dela Cruz tomorrow and the memorial service by the Legislature on Tuesday, Jan. 22. The funeral mass will be held at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 11am followed by the burial at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. The memorial will be at 10am at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

"Regretfully, I also have the sad duty as speaker, to officially advise you of the untimely death of the Hon. Rep. Francisco Santos Dela Cruz, who was a model statesman, staunch and articulate advocate, [and] a very well-respected colleague. Above all, Rep. Frank, as he was fondly known, was a true public servant and his presence in the House will be greatly missed," said Attao in his letter to Torres.

"Accordingly, I am officially declaring on behalf of the 21st CNMI House of Representatives, that a vacant seat of the Hon. Rep. Francisco Santos Dela Cruz, who passed away after he was elected to represent Precinct 3, in the Third Senatorial District of Saipan, on Jan. 6, 2019, with more than one-half of his term of office remaining."

Attao added that he is asking for Torres to call for the special election to fill Dela Cruz's vacant seat in accordance with the CNMI law. "Based on the foregoing provisions of the CNMI law and more importantly, because I sincerely believe that Rep. Dela Cruz would want his constituents in Precinct 3 to be represented to the fullest degree."

Dela Cruz, 56, was a former vice speaker in the 18th Legislature under the speakership of former representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero. He was first elected in the 15th Legislature and was reelected in the 16th and 17th, lost in his bid in the 19th, and returned in the 20th. He could have served his sixth term in the House.

CUC

From Page 1

be getting 24-hour water supply for the most part except the Chalan Galaide area as of Wednesday morning.

He said the Chalan Galaide has had a problem after Super Typhoon Yutu so they had to address the repair of the booster valve in that area.

In the middle of the interview Wednesday afternoon, Camacho received information from his staff that the check valve was already installed.

"Chalan Galaide was the only area although they were getting water it was not 24 hours. Today (Wednesday), should start allowing them 24 hours [of water supply]," he said.

Camacho said some spots on the island have issues with water pressure, high or low, but that they are making those adjustments now that they put the system back on to the island's power grid.

He said they still have a number of water wells that are under Federal Emergency Management Agency and that they are working with FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps to try to get those areas on island power.

Camacho disclosed that Isley Field water wells are on island power.

With respect to some wells in Obyan, he said they are doing everything and that as once the materials arrived they will energize those water wells.

Camacho said on Tinian, the water supply is 100 percent.

GUAM

From Page 3

from Guam with 10 Guam mayors…and $10,000 that's our goal and we're going to try and reach that goal," he said.

Castro said that the boats will also carry members of the Knights of Columbus who will aid in the rebuilding of Tinian's domestic church.

"In a follow up to that, there are commitments by various members of mayors and members of the Guam community to come back and we hope to come back with three folds…we're looking at 10 mayors, we're looking at other members of the Knights of Columbus to come and help rebuild the domestic church by bringing the spirit of cooperation in the name of One Marianas back to Tinian and then to the CNMI," he said.

The annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held on Feb. 16 and 17 and is open to the entire CNMI and Guam community.

DNAP distributed $9.3M in benefits

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program was able to distribute over $9.3 million in benefits to over 15,000 households that applied in response to Super Typhoon Yutu.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Nutritional Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas clarified that a total of $9,349,711 in DNAP benefits were distributed to 15,512 households on Saipan and Tinian combined, while 1,516 households were approved for $317,466 in total supplemental benefits were also recorded for both islands.

Specifically, Macaranas noted that 14,833 households on Saipan shared the $8,924,840 in DNAP benefits, while 679 households received a total of $424,871 in DNAP benefits. A total of 1,412 households on Saipan were eligible for supplemental benefits totaling to $298,299 while 104 Tinian households were eligible for a total of $19,167 in supplemental NAP benefits.

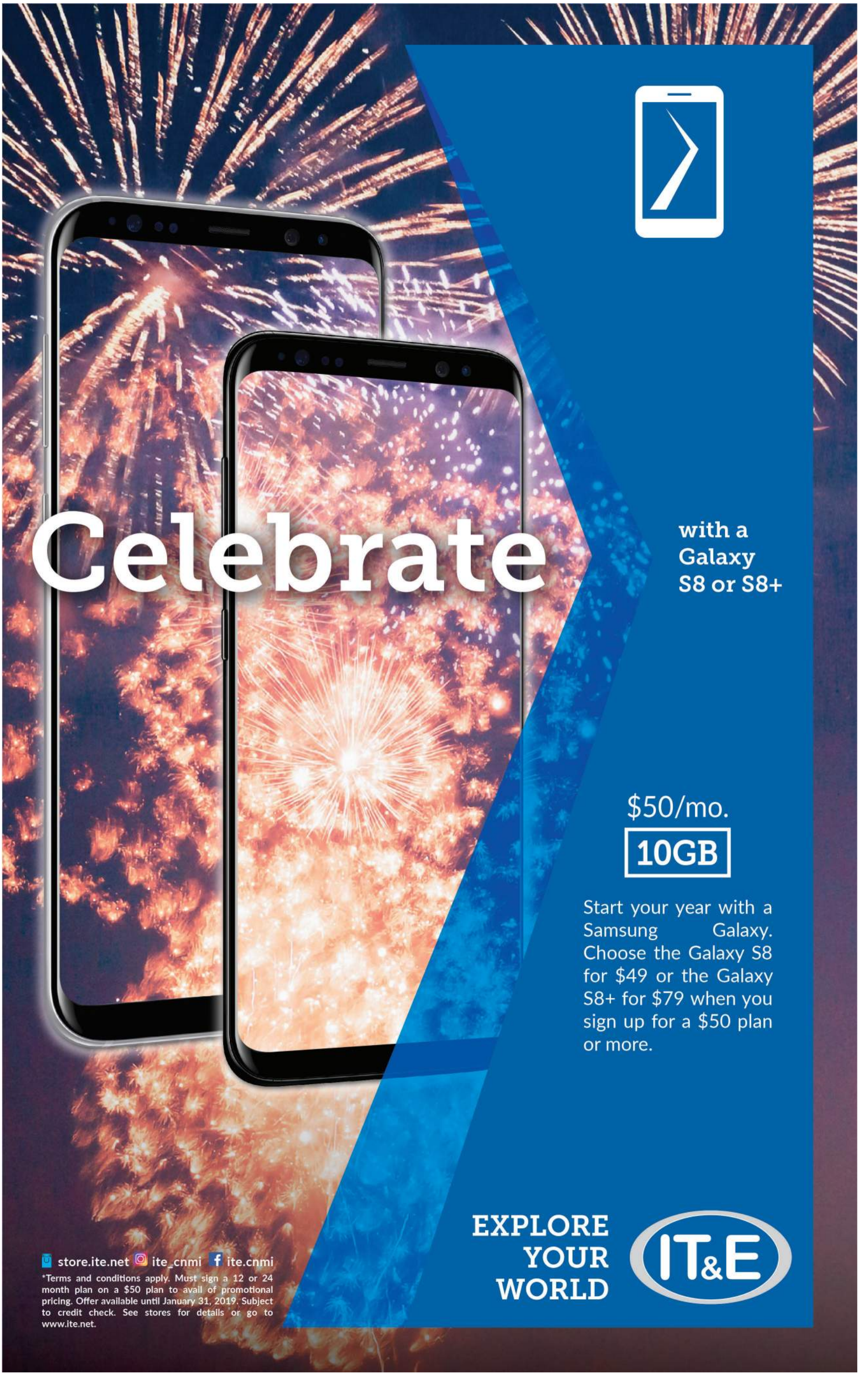
Macaranas yesterday told *Saipan Tribune* that DNAP projections were made based on the 2010 CNMI Census data, which noted a total of 14,406 households on Saipan and 874 households for Tinian.

The DNAP projected issuance was estimated at over $8.19 million for 12,409 qualified households for Saipan and Tinian combined.

While DNAP distributions for both islands exceeded projections, Macaranas noted that 158 DNAP applications were denied due to excess income or excess resources. He said 140 households on Saipan were denied and 18 were denied for Tinian specifically.

Emergency food assistance distributions on Tinian operated from Nov. 15, 2018 through Nov. 21, 2018, while Saipan from Nov. 25, 2018 through Dec. 1, 2018.

"The funding used to disburse the DNAP and Supplemental benefits came from the FY 2018 NAP block grant carryover funds and the [Enhanced Nutritional Assistance Program] grant. In terms of the regular NAP program, operation will continue as usual," Macaranas noted last Tuesday.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CUC advised to establish programs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government recommends that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. establish operations and maintenance (O&M) programs to better ensure that the millions of funds CUC received from the federal and CNMI governments for projects are spent properly in the future.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, counsel for the U.S. government, said a judicially enforceable mandate should be established requiring CUC to fund, schedule, and implement effective O&M programs for federal court's two stipulated orders' funded projects.

O'Brien

O'Brien discussed the recommendation in the U.S. government's January 2019 status report, which was filed yesterday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The DOJ senior trial attorney disclosed that since the entry of the federal court's Stipulated Orders 1 and 2, CUC will have received over $100 million from the federal and CNMI governments for SO1 and SO2 projects.

SO 1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

SO 2 focuses on oil issues and also applies to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

O'Brien said CUC's commitment would extend to projects such as the pipeline, Tanks 102 (diesel fuel tank) and 103 (aboveground storage tank), secondary containment, the proposed incinerator, oil water separators, the Agingan and Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment facilities, the sewer collection system, and Safe Drinking Water Act compliant 24-hour drinking water service.

"These improvements must be maintained in future years, cannot be permitted to fall into disrepair, and should continue to function as intended," O'Brien said.

He said CUC should establish O&M programs for the two stipulated orders projects that include program-specific budgets for adequate staffing, equipment, materials, and supplies sufficient to maintain effective operations.

Tinian, Benguet town sign sister city pact

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Municipality of Tinian and Aguigan has recently signed a sisterhood city with the town of Tublay in Benguet province in the Philippines, hoping the partnership would deepen the relationship between the two municipalities—cultural, educational, and other related areas that would be benefit both sides.

Sister cities is an agreement between towns, cities, or other areas that promotes and share commercial, cultural, and educational ties aside from fostering friendship between both parties.

Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, who was sworn in last Wednesday, told *Saipan Tribune* that former mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas signed the agreement with his counterpart Armando I. Lauro of Tublay town.

"What they did was they [San Nicolas and Association of Mariana Islands Mayors, Vice Mayors and Elected Municipal Council members] went to the Philippines in August where they met the local officials there. They forged an agreement that they would become sister city," Aldan said.

Aldan added that the agreement was recently signed by San Nicolas prior to his inauguration as the new Tinian mayor. He witnessed the signing of the agreement between San Nicolas and Lauro.

He said that he would use the sisterhood city to learn more in taking care of the environment. "I'm excited to share with them culture, education, and economics. Especially in the field of natural resources, I want to share and see what we can do to improve our environment and reforesting our island."

"Because you know, part of Saipan and the whole island of Tinian was devastated by [Super Typhoon] Yutu. I spoke to mayor [Lauro] and I told him that I wanted to meet again and start discussing on what kind of agriculture exchange we can do. Probably also some vegetables."

Benguet is a landlocked province located north of Manila in the Cordillera mountain range. The province is a known producer of various vegetables and fruits with La Trinidad town popular for strawberries. They are also known for cultivating various flowers like roses.

"As you know, Benguet is north of the Philippines and next to Baguio City. From what I've heard, they have strawberry festival and vegetables. They have local peppers too but we can exchange our local product, the Tinian pepper."

Benguet province holds annual festivals to showcase its flowers, fruits, and vegetables produce like the Strawberry Festival in La Trinidad and Baguio's Panagbenga or Flower Festival.

PSS Head Start sees 6 withdrawals

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's Head Start program recorded six withdrawals since December 2018 due to hardships from Super Typhoon Yutu.

CNMI PSS Head Start and Early Head Start coordinator Lathania Santos reported to the Board of Education last Jan. 11, 2019 that their office recorded six student withdrawals for the month of December 2018 alone.

"We are continuing to see a lot of drops as well as requests to transfer to other stations as a result of the storm, so we are continuing to work with those families," she noted in her report.

She reported that the 394 Head Start program population consisted of 230 Pacific islanders, 147 Asians, 16 multi-racial, and one Caucasian—majority male with only 192 female students as their demographics. The Early Head Start program saw 64 enrollees since December 2018, consisting of 42 Pacific islanders, 15 Asians, and seven multi-racial students, majority of which are at least 2 years old.

She noted that she believes that the recent ravage of Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018 affected the numbers as families were forced to relocate to a shelter facility as a result of the typhoon or relocate off-island altogether.

However, Santos noted that of the six students who withdrew from the Head Start program, two had transportation issues, two had family relocating out of the CNMI, one had a conflict with the parent's work schedule, and the last had urgent family matters.

While Santos noted the withdrawals, she also pointed out that the program met federal minimum requirements for the program attendance of 85 percent. She noted that the Head Start program was seeing an 88.29 percent attendance, while the Early Head Start program is seeing only 82.18 percent. Currently, she added, the programs are seeing a waitlist of 122 and 143 for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs respectively.

Almost half of the absences for the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs were attributed to sickness, while the second highest reason for absences were due to families being off-island and transportation issues.

Final distribution of Yutu relief supplies this weekend

The CNMI government will be staging its final round of Super Typhoon Yutu relief goods and supplies distribution Friday, Jan. 18, and Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019 at the Garapan Fishing Base starting both days from 9am to 5pm or until supplies last.

Some relief items being distributed include:

- 2-gallon refillable water containers
- Infant/toddler kits (includes diapers, baby wipes)
- Geriatric cots (requires proper identification such as a doctor's note or AFN placard card in order to receive)
- Kitchenware sets (includes cooking pots and pans)
- Wag bags (for those situated in tents)
- Personal hygiene kits (hand sanitizers, mouthwash, soap, bath scrubs, lotions, toothbrushes, etc.)

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation will also be joining the CNMI government distributing relief goods and supplies including clothing for various ages donated by residents from the U.S. mainland.

Supplies will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis and while supplies last. Department of Public Safety officers will be onsite to regulate crowd and traffic control.

The CNMI government invites all residents who are in need of relief goods to visit the Garapan Fishing Base on Friday and Saturday to avail of the assistance and supplies being provided free of charge.

Follow CNMI on social media

The CNMI Joint Information Center (JIC) urges the community to follow the following social media platforms to get the latest weather updates and information:

- CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/
- CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CNMIGov/
- Gov. Ralph DLG Torres Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ralphdlg.torres/
- CNMI Joint Information Center: https://www.facebook.com/JICNMI/

The CNMI JIC also encourages residents to download HSEM's readyCNMI App available for FREE in the Apple iStore or Google PlayStore to receive the latest weather updates and notifications.

For more information or media inquiries, contact Nadine Deleon Guerrero, HSEM External Affairs Officer at ncdlg@cnmihsem.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Guam native Cepeda leaving OAG

After working for four years with the Office of the Attorney General as an assistant attorney general, Barbara P. Cepeda is leaving.

Cepeda confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that her last day of office with the OAG's Child Support Enforcement Division is Feb. 22, 2019.

Cepeda said she will go back to Guam where she will be working with the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. as the directing attorney.

"I just want to spend time with my family back home," she said.

Leaving the CNMI is bittersweet for Cepeda.

She said she is happy because she will have more time with her family in Guam, but at the same time sad because she spends many years serving the people of the CNMI.

Cepeda has always been a public servant though even in Guam, where she worked in the government.

"When I go back after this job, I'm gonna be working for Micronesian Legal Services Corp. and will be helping indigent people," she said.

After working with the OAG's Criminal Division as a prosecutor for two years, Cepeda was assigned with the OAG's Child Support Enforcement Division in January 2017.

Cepeda had over 20 years of service in Guam doing child support cases prior to joining CNMI OAG. Before joining OAG, she was a deputy attorney general with Guam OAG, where she served as head of the Child Support Enforcement Division.

While assigned with the CNMI OAG's Child Support Enforcement Division, a source said Cepeda revamped the Commonwealth child support rules to collect for children.

CNMI Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan, in his speech during his oath of office for his second term as AG last Monday, disclosed that they pushed legislation to improve their Child Support Enforcement with the passage of the Uniform Interstate Family and Support Act, followed by suspension of licenses for non-compliance with order of support and directory of new hires.

Manibusan said they are about to complete a child support guidelines to assist in the speedy determination and collection of child support for the benefit of the children. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CASH FOR COLLEGE
Spring 2019
ONE-TO-ONE HELP!
Attendees of the FREE workshop will be provided with personal assistance in completing forms for the:
• Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
• CNMI Scholarship • SHEFA • Teach Grant • Other Financial Aid
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019
The workshop will be an ongoing session so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm.
Workshop will be held at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje Campus, between Buildings N and O.
www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa
www.twitter.com/GoProa
www.instagram.com/NMC.Proa
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit marianas.edu for details or call the NMC Financial Aid Office at (670) 237-6792.

FOR MANGKHUT, YUTU ASSISTANCE

1 week left to register with FEMA

Residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have one week left to register for federal disaster assistance for damage from Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu**.**

The deadline to register with FEMA is Jan. 27, 2019.

A FEMA registration has a nine-digit number. If you do not have the nine-digit number, you are not registered for federal assistance**.**

Those who suffered impacts to their primary residences and have not registered with FEMA may do so either of three ways:

■ On-line at DisasterAssistance.gov

■ Call the FEMA Helpline at 1- (800) 621-3362

■ Go to the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

The DRC located at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road in Susupe, is open 9am to 6pm Monday through Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday. Closed on Sunday.

The DRC will be closed on Monday, Jan 21, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr, Holiday.

Please remember, applicants should have the following information at hand:

■ Social Security number.

■ Address of the damaged primary residence.

■ Description of the damage.

■ Information about insurance coverage if applicable.

■ A current contact telephone number.

■ An address where they can receive mail.

■ Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds. ***(PR)***

Free notary and copying services at Cash for College

Northern Marianas College is reminding students and members of the community about NMC's upcoming Cash for College workshops Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. In addition to receiving help in finding money for college, workshop participants can also have their financial aid documents notarized and photocopied without charge.

The Cash for College workshops will be held on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian on the following dates:

Jan. 24 & 25: Rota NMC campus, from 10am to 4pm on Jan/ 24 and 8am to 12pm on Jan. 25.

Jan. 26: Saipan, Buildings N and O, NMC As Terlaje campus, from 9am to 12pm.

Feb. 12: Tinian NMC Campus Library, from 10:30am to 2:30pm.

BNMC

Participants of the upcoming Cash for College workshops on Saipan will have access to notary and copying services. For more information about the workshops visit www.marianas.edu.

At the workshop participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms like the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and application forms for the CNMI Scholarship, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA), and other municipal scholarship programs.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC admission application process.

Additionally, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming Fall 2018 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

In addition, the CNMI Scholarship Office and SHEFA program extended their application deadlines for Northern Marianas College students.

The new deadlines for CNMI Scholarship and SHEFA are:

■ CNMI Scholarship Application: March 1, 2019

■ CNMI Scholarship Supporting Documents: April 15, 2019

■ SHEFA Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2019

■ SHEFA Supporting Documents: April 12, 2019

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), Copy of 2017 and 2018 1040, Copy of 2017 and 2018 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

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...Service beyond the sale...
Raffle Draw on February 4 2019 at 10 a.m.. Some restrictions may apply.
IDEAL SIGNS

NAP benefits for Feb. to be issued as scheduled

The Nutrition Assistance Program will be distributing NAP benefits to eligible households for February 2019 as scheduled. The schedule is as follows:

■ **Tinian**
Wednesday 01/30/2019

■ **Rota**
Thursday 01/31/2019

■ **Saipan**
• Friday 02/01/2019
1st Day D to L
• Monday 2nd Day
02/04/2019 M to R
• Tuesday 3rd Day
02/05/2019 S to Z
• Wednesday 4th Day
02/06/2019 A to C
• Thursday 5th Day
02/07/2019 Open Day

NAP reminds Saipan and Tinian households whose certifications were extended to February 2019 as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu are required to renew their cases on the dates listed above. Additionally, households whose certifications were extended to March 2019 will be required to renew during the benefit distribution schedule for March 2019.

As a result of Super Typhoon Yutu, households whose certification expired in November 2018 were extended to February 2019. Those whose certification expired on December 2018 were extended to March 2019.

NAP is currently providing assistance to 3,062 households in the CNMI consisting of 8,385 eligible individuals. There are 7,735 individuals receiving assistance on Saipan, 370 on Tinian, 272 on Rota, and 8 in the Northern Islands.

For more information, contact the NAP Administration office at 237-2842 or 237-2843. ***(PR)***

CUC releases water sked per service area

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has released the schedule of Saipan water tank service areas-energized water distribution system from Jan. 13 to Jan. 19, 2019.

The schedules (time and hours) below may be affected by unanticipated interruptions caused by leaks in the distribution system, leaks in customer homes, loss of generator power or power interruption from island power, low water tank levels, and other reasons. Every attempt will be made to restore water as soon as possible based on the planned water schedule for the day.

The water schedule below is per tank service area for the week 01/13/19 to 01/19/19.

NORTH SIDE

Marpi TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: As Matuis Homestead and part of San Roque Village (North of San Roque Drive and Diablo Drive)
24 hours
Section 2: Parts of San Roque Village (South of San Roque Drive), Achugao Village, Tanapag Village, As Mahetog Village, and Parts of Lower Base (Esmerallda Drive to Sisonyan Road)
24 hours
Capital Hill/AGAG TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: As Teo Village/Santa Lourdes Village
24 hours
Section 2: Papago - Papago Drive, Susogi Drive, Isa Drive from Kagman Drive to Betbena Drive
24 hours
Section 3: 1300 Block and Wireless Ridge
24 hours
Section 4: 1200 Block, Talofofo Road, Egigi Road, Isa Drive from 1300 Block to Kagman Road
24 hours
Section 5: Tapochao Road
24 hours
Rabagau TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
As Rabagau Village and Sadog Tasi Village
24 hours
Puerto Rico TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: Puerto Rico Village and Northern Garapan Village (Between Micro Beach Road and Orchid Street)
24 hours
Section 2: Central Garapan Village (Between Orchid Street and Kopa Di Oru Street)
24 hours
Section 3: Southern Garapan Village (Between Kopa Di Oru Street and Mooty Street)
24 hours
Addition Section 4: Northern Chalan Laulau (Middle Road North of Pumpkin Street to Gualo Rai Road)
24 hours
Calhoun TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: Upper Navy Hill to Susuge Drive, Maturana Village, Diboto Lane, Gloria Drive, and Navy Hill Road (between the Afal Street and CHCC)
24 hours
Section 2A: China Town Village (Downstream of Komiti Avenue)
24 hours
Section 2B: As Falape
24 hours
Section 3: Isla Drive between Susuge Drive and Puerto Rico Drive
24 hours
Section 4: Chalan Galaide Village
24 hours
Gualo Rai TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: Upper Gualo Rai (Earhart Drive)
24 hours
Section 2: Lower Gualo Rai (Gualo Rai Road)
24 hours

SOUTH SIDE

Isley TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: Koblerville Village, Tottotville, Agingan, Afetna Village, Part of San Antonio Village, and As Gonno Village
24 hours
Section 2: Part of San Antonio Village and Chalan Piao Village
24 hours
Section 3: Chalan Kanoa Village
24 hours
Section 4A: Susupe Village and San Jose Village
24 hours
Section 4B: Texas Road/Oleai Street Intersection South to Tekken Street
24 hours
Section 5: Parts of Chalan Laulau on Beach Road from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero (Atkins Kroll) to Quarter Master Road.
24 hours
San Vicente TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: SV School, SV Loop and Tuturam Drive
24 hours
Section 2: Dandan Road from Isa Drive to Ayuda Street
24 hours
Section 3A: Dandan Homestead
24 hours
Section 3B: Naftan Road
24 hours
Kannat Tabla TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: Kannat Tabla Village to Chalan Kiya Village
24 hours
Section 2A: El Toro, Fina Sisu Village, and Parts of As Lito and As Perdido Village (up to As Perdido Road), including Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road (South of Tun Joaquin Doi Road Intersection to Adobo Dr. in Koblerville)
24 hours
Section 2B: Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road between Chalan Monsignor Guerrero (Shell Dandan) and Tun Joaquin Doi Road
24 hours
Kagman TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: Kagman 3 Village and Laolao Bay
24 hours
Section 2: Kagman 1, Kagman 2 and Kagman 4
24 hours
Papago TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: Upper San Vicente (Stanford)
24 hours
Section 2: San Vicente PRV Isa Drive Road areas and Portions of Upper San Vicente
24 hours
Dandan TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: Dandan Homestead to Naftan Road
(Served off San Vicente Tank)
24 hours
Section 2: Airport Road North of Exploring Drive to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road to NMC Traffic Light, including Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road to As Lito Drive
24 hours
Section 3A: Airport Road South of Exploring Drive to Flame Tree Drive and As Lito Drive
24 hours
Section 3B: Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road South of As Lito to Adobo Drive, and parts of As Perdido Village
24 hours
As Terlaje TSA
01/13/19 - 01/19/19
Section 1: As Terlaje Village and Parts of Chalan Laulau Village: Middle Road and Beach Road between Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Gualo Rai Road
24 hours

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Chamber to announce BPOY awardee Saturday

Eight business leaders have been nominated for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce "2018 Business Person of the Year" Award. The Chamber will be celebrating their accomplishments on Saturday evening in the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom at the Chamber's Silver Lining Gala.

The nominees are Gloria Cavanagh of Pacific Islands Club Saipan; John Hirsh of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter; Nola Hix of Xerox Corp; Glen Hunter of The Shack; James Lee of Marpac, Inc.; Velma Palacios of IT&E; Ron Smith of Angil Design; and Janice Tenorio of IT&E.

Each nominee for Business Person of the Year must be a member of the Chamber and must reside on Saipan. Qualifying criteria includes active personal participation in the Chamber's committees, events, programs, and meetings; active community involvement and contributions; and being widely recognized for his/her area of expertise.

These nominees have many professional, community, and personal achievements to celebrate:

Cavanagh is the general manager of Pacific Island Club Saipan, where in 2018 PIC Saipan successfully reopened less than two months after receiving heavy damages from Super Typhoon Yutu. An advocate for our industries, Cavanagh is the chairman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, a board member of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance, and vice chairperson of the Marianas Visitors Authority. In the Chamber, Cavanagh is an active member and supporter.

Hirsh has led multiple Red Cross typhoon disaster relief operations over the last 17 years in the region including responses for Mangkut and Yutu. Hirsh is also responsible for the Guam Red Cross disaster program, treasurer of the CARE CNMI, chairman of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, president of the local swimming federation, and executive board member of the Northern Marianas Sports Association. In the Chamber, Hirsh currently serves as the co-chair of the Armed Forces Committee.

Hix is a marketing representative for Xerox Corp.on Saipan, a position which she has held since 2012. She also serves as the sponsorship chair of the Commonwealth Cancer Association's Marianas March Against Cancer Committee, a board member of the ARC-NMI Chapter, co-founder of Marianas Young Professionals (MYPros), a member of HANMI, a member of MVA, a member of the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce, and she was recently elected as chairwoman for the CNMI Democratic Party. In the Chamber, Hix has previously served on the board as the secretary and director, and she now is an active member and supporter.

Hunter is the owner of The Shack Saipan and the newly opened Airstream Café. Hunter has helped launch many community organizations such as Rising Tide, Comprehensive Outreach Recovery Effort, Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, Friends of Marpi, and as a small business owner he contributes to the Saipan Young Professional, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, American Red Cross, Marianas Young Professionals, Northern Marianas Trade Institute, and other local groups. In the Chamber, Hunter is an active member and supporter.

Lee is the sales manager of the Beverage & Tobacco Division of Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc., supplying beverages for our stores, events, and nonprofit organizations. Lee is also the founder of the nonprofit Hoopaholics670, a personal trainer at Latte Built, and in 2018 he represented the CNMI in the Micronesian Games in Yap. In the Chamber, Lee is an active member and supporter.

Palacios is the director of Network Operations & Engineering for IT&E, where she is responsible for all wireline and wireless operations in the CNMI. A community advocate, she serves as the board chairperson of the Kagman Community Health Center (KCHC), the secretary/treasurer of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, a board member of the State Workforce Development Board, and a member of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance. In the Chamber, Palacios has served on the board of directors since 2012 and as president since 2016.

Smith created Angil Design, Inc. in 2001 and with the generous help and support of the island community, the company has evolved into a full-service IT provider. Smith is also a founder of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance as well as Atdao Systems, which promotes and facilitates the adoption of independent solar energy systems in the CNMI. An active Chamber member since 2000, Smith heads the Environmental Committee and the Government Relations Committee and has served two terms on the board of directors, one as an officer.

Tenorio is the Customer Service and Government Relations manager for CNMI at IT&E, where she promotes both customer service and community involvement within IT&E. She is involved in numerous community causes: She was recently appointed as the chair of the Board of Education; vice chairwoman of BOE Capital Improvement Committee; member of the BOE Instructional Supplies and Administration Committee; member of the BOE Students, Parents, and Community Committee; and vice chair of the BOE Legislative Committee. In the Chamber, Tenorio is an active member and supporter.

The winner of the Business Person of the Year will remain secret until the official announcement at the gala on Jan. 19, 2019. The 2018 Business Person of the Year will be selected by previous winners of the award and the Board of Directors. To order tickets for our Business Person of the Year Gala, please email Mercilynn at administrator@saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe for more information. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 24, 2019
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 ⊠ Fax: 234-9666 ⊠ www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 10/04/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2018-3838: Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for its fabrication services. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

2. Rezone Application #2018-4299: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is requesting to rezone Lot No. 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district for warehousing and fabrication of materials for construction projects. This lot is located along Kulot Di Rosa Drive, east of Saipan Health Clinic and Green Meadows School.

3. Conditional Use Application #2018-4302: Top Sheng Investment, LLC is proposing to operate a Powered Paragliding business. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 080 A 01 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
1. Update on the ATV, UTV, and Motorcycle Regulation

E. New Business
1. Text & Map Amendments to 2013 Saipan Zoning Law – for Board Adoption
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

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DOCOMO donates over $8M for Yutu relief

TAMUNING, Guam—In the true spirit of "Better Together," DOCOMO PACIFIC and its loyal customers and community and business partners are making a meaningful contribution to families affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Through a collective effort, DOCOMO PACIFIC has helped contribute more than $8 million worth of services, donations, and public outreach to the rebuilding and recovery process of the Marianas following the super typhoon.

Marianas Young Professionals co-founder/emeritus Nola Hix thanked the telecommunications company for its generous donations in the wake of Yutu.

"The road to recovery will take months and even years, but I have witnessed firsthand the outpouring of support for those impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu. We are forever grateful for the generosity of so many in our community including DOCOMO PACIFIC who without hesitation immediately offered direct assistance toward our disaster relief efforts and also offered free services and contributions to hundreds of families in the Marianas," she said.

Hix said this act of kindness helped alleviate some of the stress all experienced so everyone can focus on recovery and get back on their feet.

"For several years, DOCOMO PACIFIC has been instrumental in giving back to our community and we appreciate their continued dedication in times like these delivering on their 'Better Together' promise," she said.

DOCOMO PACIFIC president and CEO Roderick Boss said the company will continue to help the CNMI as it recovers from Yutu.

"Just as we believe that communication transforms lives, more importantly, we know the tremendous responsibility we have to our community to utilize our resources, technology, and services in times of need. We continue to stand with the CNMI and offer our full support as we rebuild and recover. Meanwhile, the power of technology, especially the use of mobile devices, has helped highlight a new generation of philanthropists who want to make a difference. We are extremely touched by the generosity of our customers and community and business partners and thank them for their contributions. The CNMI holds a special place in our hearts, so we're appreciative of all the collective efforts by our island communities," he said.

Free services

Immediately following the typhoon, DOCOMO PACIFIC pledged its full support to the recovery process by offering free mobile, internet, TV, and phone services including free data top-ups from Oct. 24 to Dec. 31 last year.

The company said it wanted its customers to focus on their families and not on their bill at this time. DOCOMO PACIFIC said customers who are still waiting for services to be restored will not be charged until restoration is completed.

Partners in recovery

Showcasing the spirit of One Marianas, DOCOMO PACIFIC allowed GTA subscribers to roam for free for one month on its network on Saipan, including those service members helping with recovery efforts. Utilizing the widest 4G LTE network in the Marianas, many GTA subscribers used DOCOMO PACIFIC's free mobile services on Saipan following the storm.

DOCOMO PACIFIC appreciates GTA customers for trusting the strength and stability of its network to stay connected while in Saipan.

Text to donate

Mobile technology has underscored the effectiveness of public outreach and changed how companies like DOCOMO PACIFIC can offer immediate support.

Thanks to their generous contributions, DOCOMO PACIFIC customers have raised $4,300 to be donated to the American Red Cross Relief Efforts on Saipan and Tinian. The funds were generated strictly through a text-to-donate fundraising initiative that allowed DOCOMO PACIFIC customers to use their mobile devices to provide immediate support.

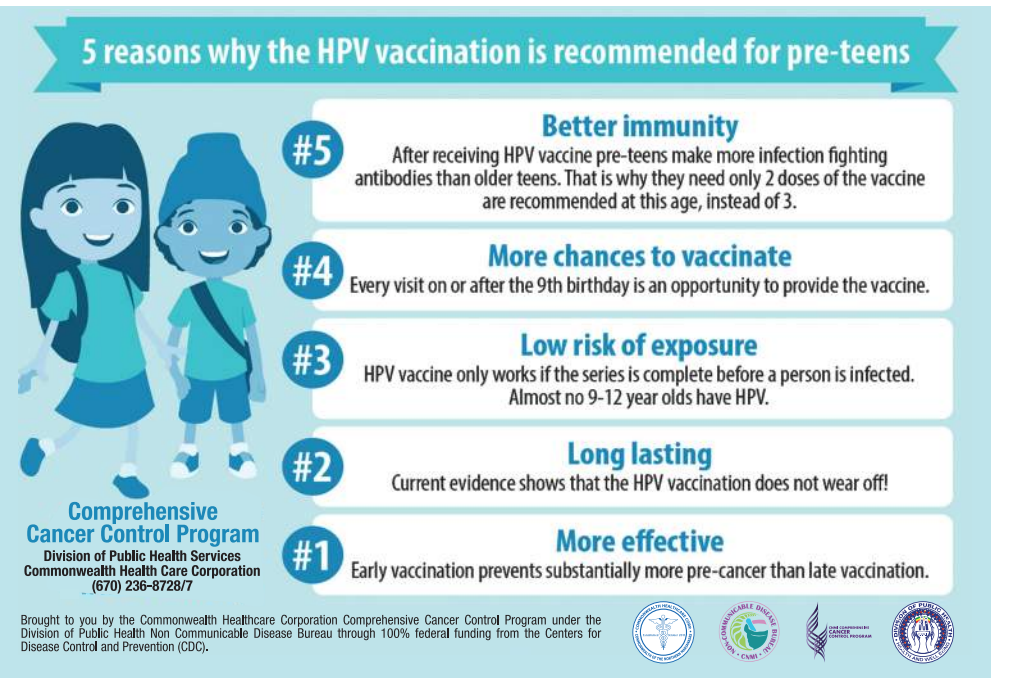
In addition to this campaign, DOCOMO PACIFIC associates came together for the "Marianas Strong Wave and Contribution Drive" last Nov. 5 in front of DOCOMO PACIFIC's Tamuning HQ. Over a two-hour span, the team waved and collected donations from drivers stuck in traffic wanting to offer their support. The proceeds will go directly to the Marianas Young Professionals (MYPros), a non-profit organization on Saipan, who are spearheading several typhoon-relief efforts.

Public outreach

Working together with Son of the Marianas Frank Camacho, DOCOMO PACIFIC helped produce and support the "MYPros Frank the Crank Typhoon Yutu Recovery" online series that documented the devastation of the storm in Saipan, but more importantly highlighted the strength of its people in the aftermath. The series helped reach a large audience and offered viewers a glimpse of the recovery process.

DOCOMO PACIFIC remains committed to restoring all of our services, and keeping families connected to the things that matter most.

For more information, feel free to reach out to DOCOMO PACIFIC public relations coordinator Ken Quintanilla at kvquintanilla@docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***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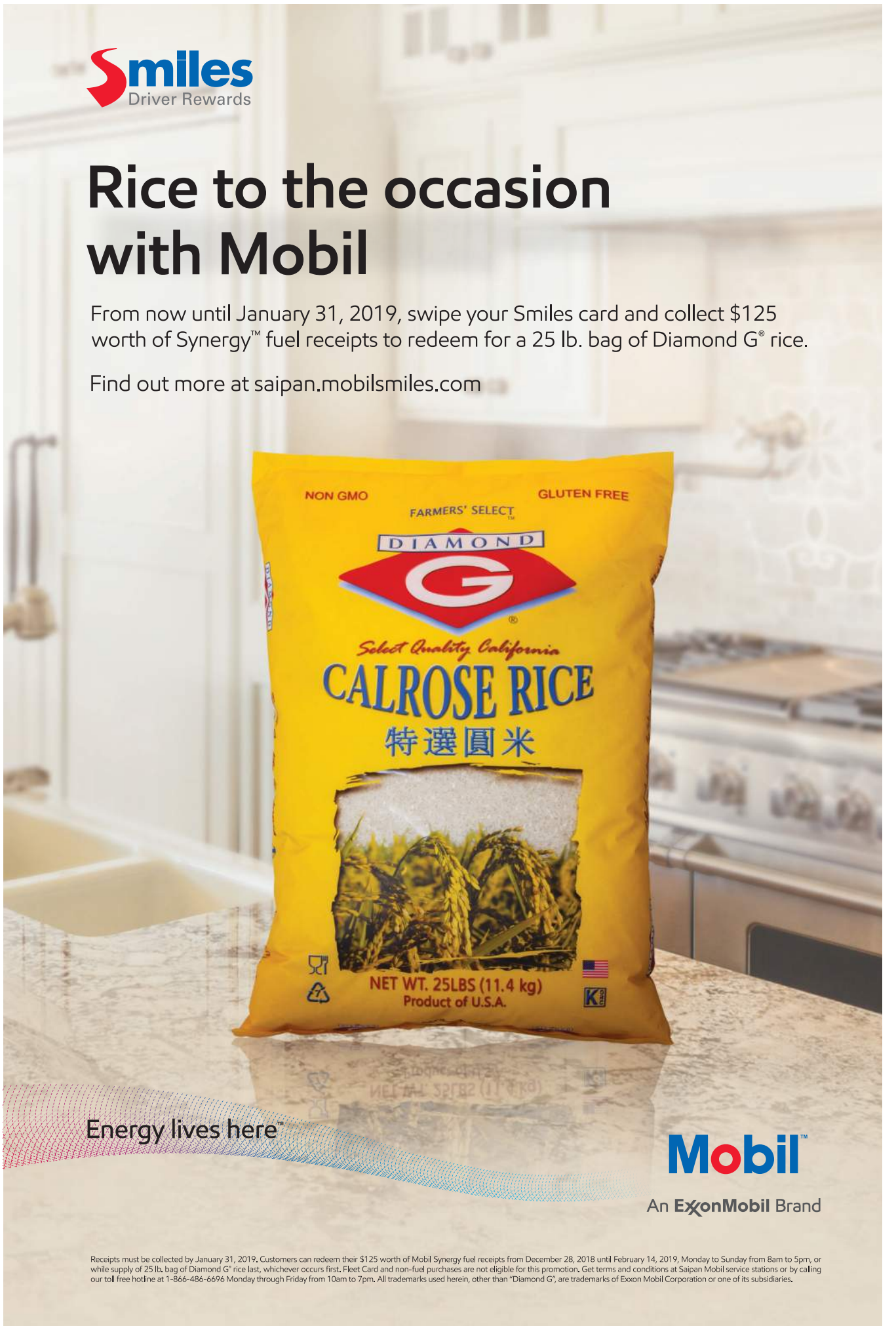
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Harris named OAG consumer counsel

After having served the past two years as chief prosecutor for the Criminal Division, Michele Harris has recently been appointed by Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan to serve as consumer counsel for the Office of Attorney General. In addition to her many years of prosecution, Harris also has experience in civil litigation and insurance defense which will enable her to effectively oversee consumer investigations and hold violators accountable.

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General investigates and enforces violations of the Consumer Protection Act. The office was reinstated in 2015 following Typhoon Soudelor, to combat complaints of price gouging and the sale of defective items. Most recently, the division issued a price freeze for the Commonwealth to prevent similar issues following Typhoon Yutu.

The OAG strives to build in the market an environment of safe, fair, and sustainable consumption where unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent businesses are held accountable for their attempts to take advantage of consumers, especially following natural disasters. To ensure this mission, Harris intends to re-establish the Joint Consumer Protection Task Force, provide community education and outreach, and monitor retail establishments to ensure compliance with the Consumer Protection Act.

By monitoring market place behaviors and identifying issues of concern to consumers, the Attorney General hopes to encourage responsible trade practices and fair competition that will protect the health, safety, and economic security of the consumer, thereby leading to lower prices and better consumer choices.

On taking on this new position, Harris said, "I am honored to continue to serve the people of the CNMI and look forward to the challenges of this new position." Harris is replaced by long-term prosecutor and local attorney, Heather Barcinas, who is currently serving as acting chief prosecutor.

If you would like to file a consumer complaint, contact the Office of the Attorney General at 237-7500 or email consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. Complaint forms can also be filled out in person at the Capitol Hill office. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michele Harris has recently been named consumer counsel for the Office of Attorney General.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) for RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Corporation is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district.
A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, January 23, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Top Sheng Investment, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Top Sheng Investment, LLC is proposing to operate a Powered Paragliding business. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 080 A 01 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 4:30 pm, January 23, 2019**. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for its fabrication services. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 4:30 pm, January 23, 2019**. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of January 18, 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Ignacia T. Saures	12/18/2018 SW-2019-X-009	Land clearing	Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Land clearing	Approved 01/07/2019*
2. American Sinopan, LLC	12/28/2018 SWm-2019-X-010	Temporary sewer connection	Tanapag, Saipan	Minor Construction-New	Approved 01/07/2019*
3. Zone D Development	01/07/2019 SS-2019-X-011	Land clearing	Chalan Piao, Saipan	Land clearing	Under Review*
4. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	01/08/2019 SSm-2019-X-012	Bubble Color Run	Garapan, Saipan	Other	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ/DCRM-038

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"CNMI CORAL NURSERY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIROMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. DAVID BENEVENTE AT dbenavente@dcrm.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JANUARY 28, 2019.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

Scholarships extend deadline for NMC students

Heine joins PIDB as vice president

HAGATNA, Guam—Pacific Islands Development Bank is proud to announce and welcome Dwight P. Heine as the bank's vice president.

In that capacity, Heine will be assisting the president and CEO in leading the overall management and operation of the bank. Specific duties and responsibilities include strategic planning and budgeting, lending, staff management and training, business development and marketing, and facilitating corporate activities including board and shareholders' meetings.

"We congratulate and welcome Dwight to our PIDB family," said Aren Palik, PIDB president and CEO. "He brings with him tremendous knowledge, experience, and skills in management, business and investment, and development financing."

In accepting the position, Heine said, "I am quite excited to take on the challenge and look forward to working with the PIDB Board of Governors, Board of Directors, and the staff and management in boosting economic activities in our region"

Heine recently held the position of chief executive officer of the Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Prior to that, from 2014 to 2017, he served as manager of Policy Development, Office of Commerce and Investment.

From 2012 to 2015, he worked for the RMI Ministry of Resources and Development as ADB project manager. He worked in the Ministry of Health as assistant secretary in charge of Personnel and Finance, and Hospital Administrator.

Heine spent some time in the private sector working for PII, Inc., as shipping manager and running his own business. After graduation from college, he returned to the Marshall Islands where he started working for the Ministry of Education as the National Scholarship coordinator, and under the Public Service Commission as senior task force officer.

Heine's education background includes: a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of the South Pacific; Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with concentration in International Health from Boston University; Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Policy and Administration from Western Oregon State College; and a Diploma from Marshall Islands High School where he graduated Salutatorian.

Heine also passed the requirements and in 2016 was awarded Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF) Designee.

He is currently pursuing a doctoral program online at the University of the Virgin Islands for a PhD in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change. ***(PR)***

The CNMI Scholarship Office and the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program have announced that they have extended their application deadlines for Northern Marianas College students.

The new deadlines for CNMI Scholarship and SHEFA are:

- CNMI Scholarship Application: March 1, 2019
- CNMI Scholarship Supporting Documents: April 15, 2019
- SHEFA Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2019
- SHEFA Supporting Documents: April 12, 2019

Students interested in receiving assistance in filling scholarship forms are encouraged to participate in the upcoming Cash for College workshops hosted by NMC. New, ongoing, and returning students can attend the Cash for College workshops scheduled on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian:

- Jan. 24 & 25: Rota NMC campus, from 10am to 4pm on Jan. 24 and 8am to 12pm on Jan. 25.
- Jan. 26: Saipan, Buildings N and O, NMC As Terlaje campus, from 9am to 12pm.
- Feb. 12: Tinian NMC Campus Library, from 10:30am to 2:30pm.

Participants of the workshop will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms like the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and application forms for CNMI Scholarship, SHEFA, and other municipal scholarships.

NMC

The CNMI Scholarship office and the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance have extended their application deadlines for NMC students. Participants needing assistance filling out these financial aid forms are encouraged to attend NMC's Cash for College workshops. For more information, contact NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791 or email fao@marianas.edu.

Staff members from the College's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process. In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming Spring 2019 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), Copy of 2017 and 2018 1040, Copy of 2017 and 2018 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information, visit marianas.edu or contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791 or email fao@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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I SEE YOU TRYING TO SNEAK ACROSS THE BORDER!! IF I WERE YOU, I'D TURN AROUND AND RUN!!
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"It's one of them Ring doorbells."

EDITORIAL

After Theresa May's humiliating Brexit defeat, it's time send the referendum back to a vote

British Prime Minister Theresa May suffered a humiliating, historic defeat on Tuesday when the House of Commons refused to approve the voluminous Brexit agreement she painstakingly negotiated with the European Union. The 432-202 margin was even more lopsided than some had expected, and led to a motion by Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn for a vote of no-confidence in her government that will be debated on Wednesday.

May is expected to survive that challenge. But Tuesday's vote will make it difficult for her to salvage the idea of a carefully negotiated withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. She is free to seek further concessions from the EU, but European leaders have little incentive to offer any. So far, they have resisted making significant changes in the deal, including in the controversial provisions affecting Northern Ireland. After the vote in Parliament, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said: "I urge the United Kingdom to clarify its intentions as soon as possible. Time is almost up."

If nothing is done, the U.K. will move inexorably toward a "no-deal Brexit," a nightmare scenario in which it leaves the EU in March without the cushion of transitional trade arrangements with Europe and measures to prevent the re-establishment of a hard border between Northern Ireland, a U.K. province, and the Republic of Ireland. Such an outcome would send shock waves through the British economy.

But there remains the possibility of another, more hopeful, alternative: a new referendum — a rerun, in effect, of the June 2016 vote in which British voters chose to leave the EU with what it now seems obvious was an insufficient understanding of the consequences of such a drastic step.

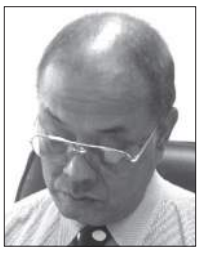
May is being criticized for failing to convince members of Parliament, including some former members of her own government, about the merits of the deal, particularly a "backstop" provision that, under some circumstances, could allow rules to be imposed on Northern Ireland that wouldn't apply to the rest of the U.K. That disparate treatment was anathema to so-called Unionists in Northern Ireland who have supported May's government and also to some members of her Conservative Party. (Ironically, as long as the U.K. remains in the EU, Northern Ireland is treated the same as England, Scotland and Wales.)

Perhaps the prime minister could have been more persuasive in lobbying her colleagues or winning additional concessions from Brussels. But the truth is that, given decades of integration between the U.K. and the rest of Europe and the importance of the Northern Ireland peace process, Brexit was never going to be a simple process. And once the concept of "Leave" was replaced by a detailed blueprint, opposition inevitably arose.

The 52 percent of voters who supported "Leave" in 2016 might have thought that withdrawing from the EU would be

See AFTER on Next Page

Ghouls of Inauguration



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Not all ghouls live in graveyards these days. Some have decided to roam around town to get a sense of events as they unfold or meet locals for updates on the inner tracks of issues.

I met the ghouls of Yutu and Nippon in Koblerville the night before the inauguration. It's an interesting meet that is lathered with serious review of our ability to stay committed on issues. They're disappointed that our progress is still a bit "retarded" on this score.

For now, it was timely to turn my attention to inaugural speeches to see if there's anything new beyond tired recycled materials since yesteryears.

There's the bold declaration to "rebuild" via True Progress. It may not be a towering ideological or philosophical speech, but a realistic focus of the huge drop of local funds forced by Yutu and departure of Nippon investments.

Legislators though spoke as if things are normal perhaps oblivious to real economic conditions at home. But then it's the bunch that usually can't find their back door so what's to expect.

It's a tough time to rein-in financial tranquility and economic stability without robust fiscal reserve. Is there room to spend loosely with the loss of some $14 billion in recent past? It obviates the query: How do we replace the humongous revenue loss?

Unfortunately, this effort would take time rebuilding if at all. So don't fret. Give opportunity a chance. We'd make it in time if we could navigate our canoe to the safe port of creative revenue generation.

The governor reassures everyone that nothing's tougher than the determination of our people to rebuild and return to normalcy. It's a good measure of confidence from the titular head. It's in the palm of his hands to make a difference by simply taking the lead. Otherwise, we'd instantly sink into our usual mañana.

It's a tough fiscal situation to overcome given the serious decrease on investments here in recent years. The obvious loss of trust and confidence of Nippon investments is woefully difficult to reverse. It's a huge loss that isn't likely to return. It's gone! Rebuild? Needs serious rehearsal, right?

Amidst this fiscal setback, there's the immediate financial challenge to increase the income of some 15-thousand employees stuck in the swamp of poverty income level for years now. It's a collective failure to have left these many employees endure insufficient family income.

It instantly compromises their ability to meeting basic family needs. Beyond the immediacy of revenues going south any realistic idea how this could be reversed?

Unless this family hardship is resolved the credibility of True Progress would be good for comical coffee shop talk across the island. We'd see how the bold announcement would pan out in terms of improving the quality of life of the multitude.

$14 billion: This amidst a huge drop in revenue of some $14 billion makes the job a task in itself. Money managers must look for ways to spur revenue generation ASAP. I remain optimistic though it still could be done provided prudence is in place how scarce funds are spent.

It must be the haunting message that there's collective failure improving poverty income earners' access to the benefits of growth here. In the process, it created inequality between the "we few" haves versus the majority or "have-nots".

It's sad how this collective negligence has encouraged unsolicited hardship for the have-nots already drowning in the filthy swamp of poverty. We divided the community into food stamp trays and the "we few" who boast off grocery stores with sufficient income. It had to be the net effect of 40 years of neglect! What else could it be?

The immediate issue is the plight of 15-thousand employees yearning for common decency in the marshland of forced poverty. It means retreating go see how this issue could be resolved in the near term. It's almost unreal that we have that many families in poverty land at this point.

The loss of $14 billion isn't an inconsequential amount. Didn't this reduction jolt your nimble mind as it relates to paying for the cost of public services? Why would you quietly treat it as a cotton ball that you just dust off your shirt? Isn't it directly related to your fiduciary duty to improve the quality of life of the people you represent? Need you lather up your humiliating abysmal performance?

Snug harbors

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Sometimes I don't have enough of an iron butt to sit at my writing desk. I often want a change of scenery, but that's more a function of change than of scenery. I got my first notebook computer in the '80s so I've always been a spoiled brat about mobility. Frankly, I could happily do without any of the more recent technology, but an '80s vintage, DOS-driven notebook computer with a monochrome screen was a revolution in mobility.

Not that mobility is the entire answer. After you, wherever you go, well, there you are. For example, few spaces are less inspiring than the hermetically-sealed interior of a hotel room. These tomb-like confines are great for sleeping, but if you're trying to push any living thoughts through a conscious mind it's like grinding gravel with your teeth. A hotel lobby often offers scant improvement; the ergonomics of their chairs and coffee tables are for relaxing, not working.

Of course, a world's worth of cafes have sprung up to serve the needs of itinerant and local customers alike. They're a far different proposition than the diner-style coffee shops of old, which were more for eating meals than for lingering over keyboards or paperwork.

In my mainland corporate days there was a sandwich shop that opened on the ground floor of a neighboring office building. It started out as a lunch joint. But outside of the lunch rush it evolved into a snug harbor for executives who wanted a respite from their nearby offices.

The shop's proprietor knew a good thing when he saw it. He quickly broadened his offerings into cafe-style fare such as pastries, bagels, espresso, and so on. Soon thereafter he improved the interior and made it more comfortable. Smart is one thing. Fast is another. This guy was both.

It was easy to drop $30 there in a single day if you went for late-morning coffee and a bagel, then had lunch there, and then went with a few co-workers to huddle over afternoon coffee away from the prying ears of office politics. You'd eventually gin up a nodding acquaintance with cliques of people from other offices doing the same thing. It was by no means a fraternity party, but the atmosphere wasn't as gray and leaden as the average corporate scene is.

The shop's proprietor became something of an introducer. Need an intellectual property attorney? An internal auditor? A marketing wonk? The proprietor probably knew one among his regulars. Within that nexus of three office buildings, he was the guy who knew who was who and what was what. He became, in the parlance of the times, a "contact influential."

I don't remember the name of the place. I'm not sure it even had one. But it must have been a gold mine, or, perhaps even better, a regularly-producing copper mine.

I knew a couple of restaurateurs at the time, both of whom had glamorous and popular places, but that shine was a thin layer atop some unglamorous realities. They had large staffing and high turnover to worry about. They had pilferage to worry about. They had alcohol licensing and associated authorities to worry about. They had problems at midnight to worry about. They had drunks to worry about. They had promotions to worry about. They had parking problems to worry about.

Running those places required a full-time manager. They also had the constant threat of new competitors to worry about. After all, the glamour attracted all sorts of players who wanted a slice of the shine and a write-up in the local papers. The smart money was nothing to sneeze at, of course, but the dumb money was even more threatening.

Meanwhile, the humble, don't-even-know-its-name sandwich shop-turned-cafe chugged along in healthy obscurity. I don't remember the hours it was open. Probably 9:30am to 4pm or so. It was closed on weekends. It was also closed on major holidays. As for promotions, I doubt the proprietor even paid for a phonebook listing. After all, you could throw a rock and hit the far boundaries of his target market; beyond that distance, nothing mattered. And staffing? He had one family member who seemed to be there sometimes, but, then again, sometimes not. Parking? Not an issue; all his traffic was on the hoof. Drunks? Bad behavior? Midnight intrigues? None.

But what he did have was that most indispensable of things in a mobile society, even if that just means a society that is willing to walk across a parking lot for a quick change of environment: He had a snug harbor.

So here's to the snug harbors of the world, including those in Saipan. You've improved life almost as much as DOS did, and, coming from me, that's high praise indeed.

AFTER

From Page 14

a simple proposition. Scandalously scant attention was paid, for example, to the implications of Brexit for the Northern Ireland peace process. (The fact that both the U.K. and the Republic of Ireland were members of the EU contributed significantly to the easing of tensions between north and south and between Catholics and Protestants within Northern Ireland.)

Since the vote, however, it has become clear that disentangling the U.K. from the EU is a complicated economic and political undertaking with the potential to create massive disruption in the lives of ordinary British people. That's why May was so determined to negotiate a detailed agreement for an orderly withdrawal. So far, her efforts have been unsuccessful.

Rather than getting swept along into a "no-deal" Brexit, her government should seriously explore the possibility of giving the voters an opportunity to revisit the basic issue now that the practical and political difficulties of implementing Brexit have been made clear.

European leaders have indicated that they would be willing to extend the March 29 deadline for the U.K.'s withdrawal from the EU. Delay could allow for further negotiation on a withdrawal agreement that might win the support of a majority in Parliament, but it could also allow the needed time to call another "people's vote." Willingness to admit a mistake is a virtue in individuals; it also reflects well on a nation.

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Let's achieve MLK's fair housing dream

By SHARON LEGENZA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

We honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a national holiday because he was a transformative leader whose words and actions advanced a vision of the nation as it should be — one in which all people have equal opportunity. But too few people realize just what a huge role housing plays in this legacy — or that these hard-fought protections are now under threat.

The Fair Housing Act, a landmark housing bill championed by King despite fierce opposition, was enacted in April 1968, a week after his assassination. Its goal was to ensure that everyone can choose where they want to live, free from systemic discrimination. This was the final major legislative achievement of the civil rights era, and one which sought to address decades of segregative policies and practices.

Now, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, under Secretary Ben Carson, is weakening fair housing protections that help build inclusive communities. In addition to scaling back most high-priority fair housing investigations and enforcement activities, HUD suspended a key rule that requires local governments to affirmatively further fair housing by assessing and addressing barriers to housing opportunity in their communities. HUD has also announced plans to revise an important tool in fighting systemic discrimination, the disparate impact rule.

All of these protections remain crucial. Our segregated communities are the result of decades of intentional government policies. People of color were long denied federal homeowner resources given to white families, and the use of redlining undermined real estate values in black neighborhoods, creating areas of concentrated poverty that still exist today.

Recent data from the census and research from the Urban Institute show that black homeownership rates have declined to levels not seen since the 1960s. More than one in every four black Americans and one in every six Latino Americans lives in neighborhoods marked by extreme poverty, compared to one in 13 white Americans, according to a 2015 Century Foundation study.

Housing discrimination affects us all, and the problems created by segregation and inequity ripple out to destabilize local economies. A 2017 report by the Metropolitan Planning Council and partners found that if the Chicago metro area were less segregated, it could see $4.4 billion in additional income each year, reduce the homicide rate by 30 percent and issue 83,000 more bachelor's degrees.

"The problem of housing discrimination is a glaring reality all over this country, north and south," King said in 1964. "And as long as we have this problem, there will be some form of de facto segregation in the public schools and in all other areas of life."

In my work with Housing Action Illinois, a statewide coalition focused on protecting and expanding access to affordable homes, I know firsthand that realizing King's vision will take hard work. We are part of a national movement to expand access to fair housing. We've facilitated educational workshops on fair housing and fair lending. We've helped pass state consumer protections for seniors and others targeted for reverse-mortgage schemes and protections from predatory rent-to-own contracts. We've also taken action to publicly oppose HUD's moves to weaken fair housing.

To become the nation envisioned by King, we must all defend the Fair Housing Act and the rules that strengthen it.

Sharon Legenza is executive director of Housing Action Illinois, a statewide coalition that has led the movement to expand affordable housing in Illinois for more than 30 years. This column was written for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

So help me God

The oath of office by all elected members of the Legislature and the governor and lieutenant governor principally included the last phrase "So help me God." In the affirmation statements included references to the laws of the CNMI, and the laws of the United States applicable to the CNMI, the constitutions of the CNMI and United States. Hence, the "so help me God" ending phrase must have been an important factor of the oath of office affirmation. So, what does this mean? What is meant that you are mindful of Jesus Christ? Each inaugurated elected persons said this, placed their right hand on the Bible that is written on behalf of God, and then each honored person signed their name over it. So, by this alone, it signified how important and power of God over whatever works done while in office.

We could ask each honored elected person for his or take of what "so help me God" means as an elected official and authority in the CNMI Government? "Man hula yu gi menan Yuus" yan y man aya taotaohu na omitdi yu para esti na puesto... The most significant and important part of the oath of office affirmation abruptly ended and makes it appear as such affirmation to God is not that important after all. Does this mean that all authority and governing are subordinated to God's commandments and its laws applicable to every person in the CNMI? We can complete the "so help me God" in so many ways and intentions. In my mind, the following could be what is meant with the affirmation—So help me God.

After the first part of the oath of office affirmation following could be the completing structure of the affirmation of office declaration. So, other suggestions could be just as powerful and bring out for our own satisfaction. Here I propose the completing part of the affirmation of office:

"Our grateful loving Lord God, not the god of the elitist, the wise, the hypocrite, the politician, the lawyer, the liar, the one who thinks he is greater than thee, but the God of the Prophets, apostles, the descendants of Abraham to David, and for the good and father of your son Jesus Christ, may I proclaim thee the pure and un-blamed. This I swear (man hula yu) before the almighty as the only way, so bless me my God. I put my right hand on top of your Bible in testament of my will and faith to thee, and without failing I your servant ready to serve if you wished to lead me, and placed you in all works entrusted to me in which you I will hold as my only trusted counselor."

So help me God. I think this affirmation is reasonable and applicable. We all resort to the love of God that is manifested by the doings of our elected honorable officials. What omission and commission they do or in what they fail to do, in their words and actions are all subjects of the "Help Me God" proclaimed by the laws of God which we find joy and happiness as gifts from his will and commandments. So let the commandment serve as the lamp, and the laws of as the light, there we derived from his desired gifts the primal power source to all elected officials in the NMI.

Thank you for the privilege of offering a suggestion of what "So Help Me God" left incomplete in the affirmation of the official oath of office declaration means. The church should also continue to effect the presence of God in the works of our elected officials. When contradicting intentions part their own ways, we can dispatch the Bible upon which these elected leaders also find refuge for the good and victory over vice and darkness. We all stand against the rupture of our basic life endeavors in the "So help me God" personal promise.

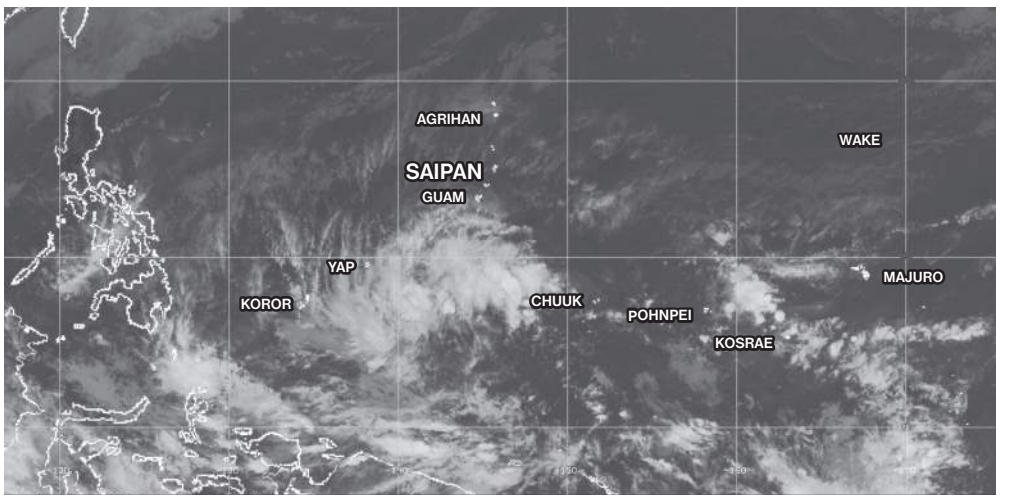
Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:56 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The tropical disturbance that is the remnants of Tropical Depression 01W is passing well south of Guam. It remains poorly organized. There are some showers that are making it further north and could reach the Guam coastal waters or even Guam itself, but coverage is expected to be isolated. The system will continue to move westward to west-northwestward. Guidance wants to develop scattered showers over the area Friday night into Saturday associated with the convergence into the circulation which will be somewhere over western Micronesia at that time. However, the models continually have been overdeveloping this system. Most have it more developed than it is currently. If the system is not as strong as forecast at that point, then we may not see the scattered showers, but for now they were added to the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	77° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	41° / 19°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	68° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	76° / 69°
London	Mostly Sunny	41° / 36°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Manila	Cloudy	88° / 73°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 68°
New York	Showers	44° / 29°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	54° / 43°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 30°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	50° / 36°
Rome	Showers	52° / 39°
Salem	Cloudy	64° / 53°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 49°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 19°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	46° / 30°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69
11:04 AM	LOW TIDE	1.17
4:27 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95
11:57 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.38

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:22 AM	3:08 PM
Saturday	-	4:23 AM	4:06 PM
Sunday	-	5:26 AM	5:08 PM
Monday	-	6:29 AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	-	7:29 AM	7:19 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U86486	10:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183 via GUM	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

ICBEIT 2018 Osaka
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rebecca G. Casimbon, a 2018 alumna of the University of Guam's Master of Public Administration program, presented the research paper on corruption that she co-authored at the International Conference on Business, Economics, & Information Technology held in March in Osaka, Japan.

UOG study on corruption in the US published in selective journal

A research product of the Regional Center for Public Policy (RCPP) at the University of Guam on factors relating to corruption in the U.S. was selected for publication in "Asia Pacific Business & Economics Research Perspectives." The publication is a peer-reviewed journal of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, the second largest international university in Japan, and publishes less than 20% of papers submitted.

"The paper is a testament to how our programs at the School of Business & Public Administration can produce excellent, relevant, and impactful research output," said Maria Claret M. Ruane, a professor of economics at UOG and a research contributor at RCPP who co-authored the paper.

The paper, "Factors that explain corruption in the United States of America: A regression analysis," was a collaboration among Ruane, 2014 Master of Public Administration (MPA) alumnus John E. Ruane; 2018 MPA alumna and 2016 Truman Scholar Rebecca G. Casimbon; and John J. Rivera, chairman of SBPA's MPA and Professional Master of Business Administration programs and director of the RCPP.

The study sought to identify what causes corruption in the U.S. Using Department of Justice data on the Federal Public Corruption Convictions Rate over a 10-year period, the study found that factors that decrease corruption in the U.S. include higher economic growth, a lower incidence of poverty, and more available resources allocated toward law enforcement. The complete article can be viewed here.

This is the second MPA work that has been accepted for publication in a double-blind, peer-reviewed journal in the last few years. The last one was by MPA alumnus Daniel Brown with his 2016 work on "Familiarity and knowledge of the U.S. Constitution: A survey of Guam's residents." ***(PR)***

Lions Club offers Zumba, health screening tomorrow

The Saipan Alliance Lions Club is promoting health and fitness this Saturday, Jan. 19, at Marianas Business Plaza. Registration starts at 5pm and Zumba begins at 6pm.

In collaboration with the Division of Public Health cervical cancer prevention program, health screening like blood pressure check, blood sugar test, diabetes awareness, among others will be conducted through the assistance of Marianas Medical Center volunteers. Club members will distribute assorted freebies.

They will also give prizes for best in Zumba attire for male and female, best in moves, and best in *man'amko* category. There is a $5 registration fee and those who wish to avail of an event T-shirt must pay $15 each. All proceeds will fund the club's community service projects.

The club would like to thank all their sponsors: Ms. Lupe Sabino, Ernie Molina, Saipan Ice & Water company, Sapphire Enterprises, Ms. Carol Kamchang Wong, Connie's BBQ/Catering, GIG partners Inc., Ms. Maria Fricia Pangelinan, Pacific Printing Press, Gold Ribbon Enterprises, Inc., Micronesian Brokers Inc., C&R Corporation, Triple J Five Star, Moby Dick Restaurant, and Country House Restaurant.

For more details, call club past president Al Cabael at 483-4663, vice president Bhiya Canadalla at 285-6899, or secretary Donna Fonda at 788-4108.

To learn more about Lions Clubs, visit their website: lionsclubs.org. ***(PR)***

Cook continues as interim president/CEO

BankGuam Holding Company (BKGMF) and Bank of Guam at its Dec. 26, 2018 board meeting appointed Joaquin P.L.G. Cook to serve as the company's and the bank's interim president and chief executive officer effective Jan. 1, 2019. Cook was previously appointed interim president and chief executive officer of the company and bank from May 2018 to November 2018. The board, at the same meeting, tasked a Transition Committee to commence the process of searching for a new president and chief executive officer. ***(PR)***

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Attorney for Petitioner Felicitas P. Abraham

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0449
JOAQUIN "MITCH" I. PANGELINAN	NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Deceased.	DATE: Feb 14, 2019 TIME: 9:00 am JUDGE: Joseph Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOAQUIN "MITCH" I PANGELINAN OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Felicitas P. Abraham** has petitioned that Superor Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to Probate the Will and for Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joaquin"Mitich"I Pangelinan, the deceased. The attorney for the Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres**, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya P.O. Box 503758 Saipan MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their daims with the Clerk or Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law at the address herein -above indicated**.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of December, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk Of Court

Edelynn & Nicolas Jr. Pinaula
P.O. Box 506686 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 323-9420

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: E.L.E.B. Minor Child By: Edelynn L.C. Pinaula and Nicolas C. Pinaula Jr. Petitioners	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0006 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 28th day of January, 2019 at 9:00am in Courtroom MBP, before the Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2019.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz,
Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DPW-041

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 25, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) CLASS "F" 4WD, FOUR-FULL DOORS, PICK-UP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

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THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

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PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PORT OF SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-19

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 11, 2019** at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, Port of Saipan, Project No. CPA-RFP-005-19". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 01, 2019** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at the CPA Seaport Conference Room located at the Port of Saipan on **January 25, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Ports Manager, Rodney James Taisacan to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras and systems are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Guam Navy Commands sweep Project Good Neighbor Award overseas

ASAN, Guam—Fueled by the spirit of inafa'måolek, which means "to make good," the members of three Guam-based U.S. Navy commands were recently recognized by the Navy Community Service Program for their outstanding volunteer efforts within the island community.

Winning the 2018 Navy Project Good Neighbor Community Service Flag Award in the overseas command category were the service members and civilians of U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, U.S. Naval Base Guam and Commander, Submarine Squadron 15.

Garnering the award for the large overseas command category were the 202 volunteers of the naval hospital, who provided a total of 2,229 hours of community service engaging with their two sister villages and four sister schools.

"When our Sailors are out volunteering they're interacting with the local community," said USNH Guam Commanding Officer Capt. Maria Young. "This interaction forms bonds, builds trust and strengthens partnerships as they work together as a team."

Young added that volunteer opportunities help Sailors understand the Navy's mission and provides them leadership skills, growth and development.

"Sailors become role models and understand the value of working together to make the island a better place every day," she said.

With 200 volunteers providing up to 2,000 community service hours, NBG took the medium overseas command category award. Because of their unique relationship with the local community, the base hosts several community events specifically tied to the island's liberation and the history of the base, formerly known as Sumay village.

"The program helps to establish year-long projects and programs that celebrate military and local traditions and events," said NBG Commanding Officer Capt. Jeffrey Grimes. "This two-way sharing of culture and community service brings the local residents and military personnel together. I am proud of all the dedicated Sailors and civilians of this command who played a vital role in being good neighbors."

The 51 volunteers of CSS-15 received the small overseas command category award with their contribution of 1,670 community service hours.

Command Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Christian Rivera expressed the volunteer work is beneficial to both the Sailors and the local population.

"The volunteer work completed by Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 builds and strengthens partnerships with our sister village of Inarajan, as well as the rest of the island," he said. "Volunteering provides our Sailors with a sense of belonging and fellowship with the local population, which ultimately helps foster a thriving One Guam."

Rivera added that volunteering also helps Sailors strengthen their interpersonal relationships at work and has an impact on their work ethic.

Each command's volunteers, some alongside their family their members, devoted time to activities hosted by Guam's village mayors offices, to include that of their designated sister village, such as parades and cultural celebrations including Liberation Day festivities; multiple school events, such as beautification projects, career days and science fairs; environmental initiatives, such as the International Coastal Cleanup and tree plantings; and goodwill activities in hand with organizations like Feds Feed Families, Habitat for Humanity, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Sugar Plum Tree, Inc.

Service members in Guam strive to continuously engage with the local community and improve the quality of life through such activities, as each opportunity to do so is valuable to fortifying partnerships and encouraging unity in support of the One Guam mission.

The Project Good Neighbor Award distinguishes the best year-round volunteer programs or special projects on shore, at sea, and overseas, that promote outreach activities that seek to bring hope to the community through humanitarian assistance. ***(PR)***

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON 15

ASAN, Guam—Service members and families of U.S. Naval Hospital Guam's Leadership 365 volunteer to collect trash and debris at Asan Beach Park Feb. 22, 2018. The event encouraged the volunteers to be good stewards of the local environment.

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services Staff teach students about fire prevention practices at Marcial Sablan Elementary School in Agat, Guam Oct. 18, 2018. The students were able to tour the fire truck, operate the fire hose and ask questions about fire safety.

ASAN, Guam—Sailors and family members from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 and Performance Monitoring Team Det. Guam partner with residents of their sister village of Inarajan to clear trash and debris along the village roads Sept. 17, 2018. The volunteers stepped into assist with recovery efforts following Typhoon Mangkhut.

Surface danger zone ensures public safety, mission readiness, continued partnership

ASAN, Guam—The Finegayan Small Arms Range and the associated safety danger zone on Naval Computer and Telecommunication Station Guam has been safely and effectively used by the military, local, and federal agencies since the mid-1970s.

There is no proposed expansion of the existing range, nor are there any operational changes or proposals to use higher caliber firearms at the range. The administrative action concerning the SDZ formalizes existing operation of the existing range.

To accomplish this, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is codifying the establishment of the SDZ, having put out the information for public comment.

The SDZ has been included to ensure the safety of local fisherman and mariners, providing awareness so they can plan for when the range is in use. The arms permitted at the range are all small caliber, to include hand pistols, rifles and shotguns. As with all Department of Defense small arms ranges, arms are fired into a substantial earthen berm, with the SDZ serving as an additional layer of safety.

As stated in the federal public notice, all military services, federal and local law enforcement, to include the Guam National Guard, Guam Police Department, NCIS and the FBI use the range for mission critical small arms proficiency training.

The SDZ was fully evaluated in the 2015 Mariana Islands Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement and Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.

Safety compliance at the Finegayan Small Arms Range is vital. The SDZ ensures the range will be run safely for both the organizations using it as well as mariners and fisherman who enter the area with the following:

- An advisory will be broadcast and made available by the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF channel 16.
- When the range is in not use, the SDZ will be open to normal maritime traffic and all activities to include anchoring and loitering.
- While the range is in use, vessels will need to transit quickly through the SDZ; no loitering or anchoring will be permitted.
- Range activities will halt while vessels are transiting.
- During the day a prominent red flag will be displayed while the range is in use and lookouts will be posted; at night a strobe light will be used in the same conspicuous location as the flag.

The Navy remains committed to protecting and preserving the rich environmental and cultural resources in Guam, and wants to ensure the safety of the public during mission critical training. The continued operation of this small arms range is important to achieve the core mission of the Department of Defense to sustain the readiness of our men and women who have sworn an oath to protect and defend our country. ***(PR)***

Business

From travel to IPOs, how shutdown is upsetting US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Delta Air Lines can't get eight new aircraft in the air. Roughly a million government employees and contractors aren't being paid. Some Americans who are trying to start small businesses face delays in obtaining the required tax identification number from the IRS.

As the partial government shutdown moves through its fourth week with no end in sight, the economic blow is being felt not only by federal workers but also by business people, households and travelers across the country. And while the hit to the overall economy so far remains slight, economist foresee real damage if the shutdown drags into February or beyond.

"Even if the shutdown is over by the end of the month, the hit to growth will be material," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said in a research note.

Shepherdson projects that after growing for nearly 10 years, the economy might even contract in this year's first quarter if the shutdown lasts through March. Other forecasts are less dire. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, thinks that if the shutdown extends that long, the economy would slow by 0.5 percentage point but would remain on solid footing.

On Tuesday, Kevin Hassett, a top economist in the White House, acknowledged that the shutdown was weighing on the economy more than he had previously estimated. Hassett, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said the White House now calculates that annual growth is slowing by about 0.1 percentage point a week.

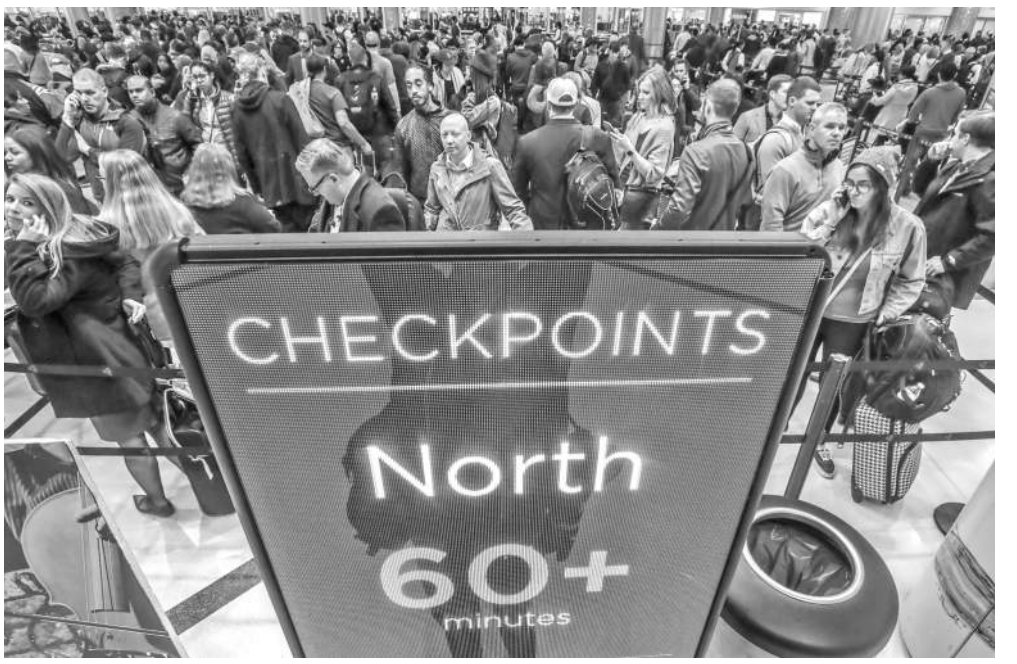
With the shutdown in its fourth week, that calculation would suggest that the economy has lost nearly a half-percentage point of annual growth so far, though some of that loss occurred at the end of last year and some in the first quarter of this year. Hassett said the economy should enjoy a boost whenever the government reopens.

Previous White House estimates of the impact didn't fully take into account the effects on people who work for private companies that contract with the government to provide services, Hassett said.

The shutdown is rippling through the economy in ways that are not always visible, making it hard to fully assess its consequences. Complicating the task is that much of the economic data the government normally provides—from retail sales to home construction to the nation's gross domestic product—has been suspended because the agencies that compile it remain closed.

With national parks shut down and some travelers suffering through long security lines and in some cases partial airport closures, for example, many Americans are having to decide whether to cancel travel and vacation plans.

"It is now plainly evident that the shutdown is affecting air travel, and when that happens, damage to the overall U.S. economy will shortly follow," said Jonathan Grella, a spokesman for the U.S. Travel Association, a trade group.



AP

In this Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, file photo security lines at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta stretch more than an hour long amid the partial federal shutdown.

May wins no-confidence vote, but still is beset by Brexit

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May survived a no-confidence vote in Parliament on Wednesday to remain in office—but saw more of her power ebb away as she battled to keep Brexit on track after lawmakers demolished her European Union divorce deal.

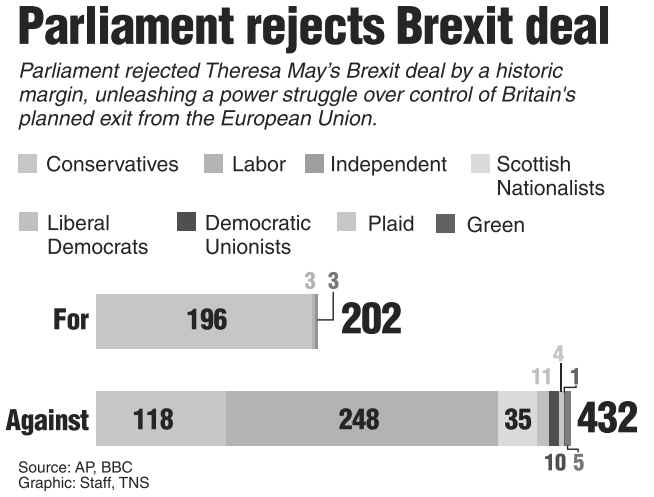
May won a narrow victory, 325 votes to 306 votes, on an opposition motion seeking to topple her government and trigger a general election.

Now it's back to Brexit, where May is caught between the rock of her own negotiating red lines and the hard place of a Parliament that wants to force a radical change of course.

After defeating the no-confidence motion, May said she would hold talks "in a constructive spirit" with leaders of opposition parties and other lawmakers in a bid to find a way forward for Britain's EU exit.

She appeared outside her 10 Downing St. residence after meeting the leaders of several smaller parties. The prime minister named the parties in a statement in which she called on opposition politicians in Parliament to "put self-interest aside" and find a consensus on Britain's path out of the EU.

Legislators ripped up May's Brexit blueprint Tuesday by rejecting the divorce agreement she has negotiated with the EU over the last two years. That it would lose was widely expected, but the scale of the rout—432 votes to 202, the biggest defeat government defeat in British parliamentary history—was devastating for May's leadership and her Brexit deal.



Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn responded with the no-confidence motion, and urged the government to "do the right thing and resign."

May, who leads a fractious government, a divided Parliament and a gridlocked Brexit process, said she was staying put. May said an election "would deepen division when we need unity, it would bring chaos when we need certainty, and it would bring delay when we need to move forward."

What's next for Brexit?

The government survived Wednesday's vote with support from May's Conservative Party and its Northern Irish ally, the Democratic Unionist Party. Many pro-Brexit Conservatives who voted against May's deal, backed her in the no-confidence vote to avoid an election that could bring a left-wing Labour government to power.

Had the government lost, Britain would have faced a snap election within weeks, just before the country is due to leave the European Union on March 29.

Political analyst Anand Menon, from the research group U.K. in a Changing Europe, said May had a remarkable ability to soldier on.

"The thing about Theresa May is that nothing seems to faze her," he said. "She just keeps on going."

May's determination—or, as her foes see it, her inflexibility—might not be an asset in a situation calling for a change of course. The prime minister has until Monday to come up with a new Brexit plan.

Sears survives a near-death experience, but for how long?

NEW YORK (AP)—Sears will live on—at least for now.

Its chairman and biggest shareholder, Eddie Lampert, won tentative approval for a $5 billion plan to keep the ailing, 132-year-old department-store chain in business, fending off demands from creditors that it throw in the towel, according to a person familiar with the negotiations. The person was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday.

Lampert, the hedge fund owner who steered Sears into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October, is aiming to keep open roughly 400 stores and preserve tens of thousands of jobs.

But how long Sears can survive under the 56-year-old billionaire, who has tried and failed to turn it around many times before, remains an open question.

The company that was once the Amazon of its day, selling everything from girdles to snow tires, still faces cutthroat competition from the likes of Amazon, Target and Walmart. Its stores are looking drab and old. And Lampert has yet to spell out how he plans to change the company's fortunes.

"While there's no doubt that a shrunken Sears will be more viable than the larger entity, which struggled to turn a profit, we remain extremely pessimistic about the chain's future," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail.

"In our view, Sears exits this process with almost as many problems as it had when it entered bankruptcy protection. In essence, its hand has not changed, and the cards it holds are not winning ones."

Sears' corporate parent, which also owns Kmart, had 687 stores and 68,000 employees at the time of its bankruptcy filing. At its peak in 2012, its stores numbered 4,000.

The company was hammered during the recession and outmatched in its aftermath by shifting consumer trends and strong rivals. It hasn't had a profitable year since 2010 and has suffered 11 straight years of declining sales.

At a bankruptcy auction held this week in New York, Lampert won the OK from a subcommittee of the Sears board for a rescue plan financed through an affiliate of his hedge fund ESL.

Many of Sears' unsecured creditors, who rank at the bottom of the list to be paid and include merchandise suppliers and landlords, had pressed for liquidation, contending the business was worth more dead than alive. They also questioned the propriety of certain deals Lampert has done while at Sears.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
24,207.16	2,616.10	7,034.69
+141.57	+5.80	+10.86
+0.59%	+0.22%	+0.15%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.40	Hong Kong Dollar	7.84	Russian Ruble	66.29
British Pound	0.7769	Indian Rupee	71.32	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Indonesian Rupiah	14,153	South Korean Won	1121.86
Chinese Yuan	6.77	Malaysian Ringgit	4.11	Swiss Franc	0.99
Euro	0.8783	New Zealand Dollar	1.48	Taiwan Dollar	30.86
		Philippine Peso	52.32	Thailand Baht	31.67

Nation

Outpouring of generosity for TSA workers, others without pay

The partial government shutdown is a double-whammy for Cara and Philip Mangone, a married couple from Philadelphia. Both are agents with the Transportation Safety Administration, both working full time at the Philadelphia airport. Neither knows when they might again start drawing their paychecks.

Part-time jobs are out of the question—they work opposite shifts timed to make sure one of them is always home with their kids, ages 2 and 5. So donations of food and diapers have been a real help as savings are being stretched thin.

"Every penny that we don't have to spend is helpful," Cara Mangone said Wednesday as she picked up donated goods being distributed at the airport by fellow members of the American Federation of Government Employees.

The shutdown has brought an outpouring of generosity to TSA agents and other federal employees who are working without pay. Food, financial help, haircuts and toiletries are among the donated goods and services. TSA screeners start at about $24,000 a year, and most make between $26,000 and $35,000, less than many other government employees, although some earn more because of seniority, overtime or level of management responsibility.

On Wednesday, donations of diapers, juice, garbage bags, canned soup and boxes of Ramen noodles were being unloaded onto luggage carts at the valet drop-off curb at Orlando International Airport, to be distributed to TSA workers there the next day.

AP

TSA employee Hill Dalde eats a hamburger during lunch at Salt Lake City International Airport, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019, in Salt Lake City.

"I just wanted to support the federal workers who are furloughed because of the inaction of our government leaders," said Brian Couch, wearing a Kansas City Chiefs ball cap as he dropped off his donation.

The airport in Pittsburgh provided a free lunch to TSA workers on what should have been their payday last Friday. "Our Operation Thank You free lunch program initially was only Fridays but because we're hearing from several food vendors who want to donate, it's possible it will be increased to more days," airport spokesman Bob Kerlik said in an email.

At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, spokeswoman Elise Durham said some concession operators there were also donating free lunches to TSA workers and the airport was providing complimentary parking for those workers who need it.

Some travelers wanted to get in on the act, but TSA rules don't allow that.

"There are people trying to donate gift cards to us at the checkpoints," Cara Mangone said. "We can't accept it."

Businesses large and small are trying to help.

The Ruby Slipper, a New Orleans-based restaurant chain with several locations in the city and on the Gulf Coast, said on its Facebook page that it has served some 3,000 free meals since offering help to unpaid federal employees more than two weeks ago. At The Top Knot Beauty Company in the New Orleans suburb of Metairie, owner Jennifer Delage has been offering free haircuts to federal employees. She said other businesses have followed suit with free or discounted services.

"That was the main goal," Delage said. "To inspire others to pay it forward."

Trump administration to roll out new missile defense plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration will roll out a new strategy Thursday for a more aggressive space-based missile defense system to protect against existing threats from North Korea and Iran and counter advanced weapon systems being developed by Russia and China.

Details about the administration's Missile Defense Review—the first compiled since 2010—are expected to be released during President Donald Trump's visit to the Pentagon with top members of his administration.

The new review concludes that in order to adequately protect America, the Pentagon must expand defense technologies in space and use those systems to more quickly detect, track and ultimately defeat incoming missiles.

Recognizing the potential concerns surrounding any perceived weaponization of space, the strategy pushes for studies. No testing is mandated, and no final decisions have been made.

Specifically, the U.S. is looking at putting a layer of sensors in space to more quickly detect enemy missiles when they are launched, according to a senior administration official, who briefed reporters Wednesday. The U.S. sees space as a critical area for advanced, next-generation capabilities to stay ahead of the threats, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose details of the review before it was released.

The administration also plans to study the idea of basing interceptors in space, so the U.S. can strike incoming enemy missiles during the first minutes of flight when the booster engines are still burning.

Congress, which ordered this review, already has directed the Pentagon to push harder on this "boost-phase" approach, but officials want to study the feasibility of the idea and explore ways it could be done.

The new strategy is aimed at better defending the U.S. against potential adversaries, such as Russia and China, who have been developing and fielding a much more expansive range of advanced offensive missiles that could threaten America and its allies. The threat is not only coming from traditional cruise and ballistic missiles, but also from hypersonic weapons.

For example, Russian President Vladimir Putin unveiled new strategic weapons he claims can't be intercepted. One is a hypersonic glide vehicle, which could fly 20 times faster than the speed of sound and make sharp maneuvers to avoid being detected by missile defense systems.

"Developments in hypersonic propulsion will revolutionize warfare by providing the ability to strike targets more quickly, at greater distances, and with greater firepower," Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told Congress last year. "China is also developing increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile warheads and hypersonic glide vehicles in an attempt to counter ballistic missile defense systems."

Current U.S. missile defense weapons are based on land and aboard ships. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have both emphasized space-based capabilities as the next step of missile defense.

FBI: Man wanted to attack White House with anti-tank rocket

ATLANTA (AP)—A Georgia man accused of plotting to use an anti-tank rocket to storm into the White House was arrested in a sting Wednesday after he traded his car for guns and explosives, authorities said.

Hasher Jallal Taheb, 21, of Cumming was arrested Wednesday and is charged with attempting to damage or destroy a building owned by the United States using fire or an explosive, U.S. Attorney Byung J. "BJay" Pak said.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Taheb had an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

A local law enforcement agency contacted the FBI in March after getting a tip from someone who said Taheb had become radicalized, changed his name and planned to travel abroad, according to an FBI agent's affidavit filed in court.

The affidavit says Taheb told a confidential FBI source in October that he planned to travel abroad for "hijra," which the agent wrote refers to traveling to territory controlled by the Islamic State. Because he didn't have a passport, he couldn't travel abroad and told the FBI source that he wanted to carry out an attack in the U.S. against the White House and the Statue of Liberty.

He met with the undercover agent and the FBI source multiple times last month and was also in frequent contact using an encrypted messaging application, the affidavit says.

During one meeting with the agent and the source, Taheb "advised that if they were to go to another country, they would be one of many, but if they stayed in the United States, they could do more damage," the affidavit says. Taheb "explained that jihad was an obligation, that he wanted to do as much damage as possible, and that he expected to be a 'martyr,' meaning he expected to die during the attack."

At another meeting, he showed the undercover agent a hand-drawn diagram of the ground floor of the West Wing of the White House and detailed a plan for attack, the affidavit says. He asked the undercover agent to obtain the weapons and explosives needed to carry out the attack, and they discussed selling or exchanging their cars to pay for them.

Asia

US assessment raises concerns over China attacking Taiwan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid increasing tensions with Beijing, the Pentagon has released a new report that lays out U.S. concerns about China's growing military might, underscoring worries about a possible attack against Taiwan.

Speaking to reporters, a senior defense intelligence official said Tuesday that the key concern is that as China upgrades its military equipment and technology and reforms how it trains and develops troops, it becomes more confident in its ability to wage a regional conflict. And Beijing's leaders have made it clear that reasserting sovereignty over Taiwan is a top priority.

The official added, however, that although China could easily fire missiles at Taiwan, it doesn't yet have the military capability to successfully invade the self-governing island, which split from mainland China amid civil war in 1949. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in order to provide more detail on intelligence findings in the report, which was written by the Defense Intelligence Agency.

■ ■ ■

HSINCHU, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan is holding live-fire military exercises following extended threats against the island by China

AP

A Taiwanese soldier watches from an M60A3 Patton tank during a military exercises in Taichung, central Taiwan, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Artillery and assault helicopters fired at targets off the west coast city of Taichung on Thursday, while Mirage fighter jets took off amid rainy conditions from the air base at Hsinchu to the north.

The drills are Taiwan's first since Chinese President Xi Jinping on Jan. 2 reasserted Beijing's willingness to use military force to bring self-ruling Taiwan under Chinese control.

The drills also follow a new Pentagon report laying out U.S. concerns about China's growing military might, underscoring worries about a possible attack against Taiwan.

Taiwan's independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen has made national defense a priority and has refused China's demand that she recognize Taiwan as a part of China.

■ ■ ■

A Chinese government spokeswoman said the report "is full of Cold War ideology and zero-sum game thinking" and suggested the U.S. was making excuses to strengthen or develop its own weapons of mass destruction.

"We use rules rather than weapons to safeguard and promote our own interests," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a daily news briefing in Beijing on Wednesday.

The report's release Tuesday comes just a week after Chinese President Xi Jinping called on his People's Liberation Army to better prepare for combat. China has warned the U.S. against further upgrading military ties with Taiwan and has threatened to use force against the island to assert its claim of sovereignty. Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. has taken incremental moves to bolster ties with the island, including renewed arms sales and upgraded contacts between officials.

U.S.-China tensions have become increasingly frayed on the military and economic fronts over the past year. Trump imposed tariff increases of up to 25 percent on $250 billion of Chinese imports over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Xi responded by imposing penalties on $110 billion of American goods.

And last year the Pentagon disinvited China to a major, multinational Pacific exercise, citing Beijing's militarization of man-made islands in the South China Sea.

The ongoing rise of China, in fact, has triggered greater U.S. military attention on the Indo-Pacific region over the last several years. And last year's release of the U.S. National Defense Strategy emphasized the importance of great power competition with Russia and China. And it asserted that China's rapidly expanding military and Russia's increasing aggression are threatening America's military advantage around the world.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Sri Lanka considers big China loan to repay foreign debts

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka is considering a $300 million loan offer from the Bank of China as it prepares to repay foreign debts this year, a Finance Ministry official said. The government has appointed a three-member committee to negotiate the deal, according to Finance Ministry spokesman M.R. Hasan. The loan is repayable in three years, he said Wednesday. Sri Lanka must repay $5.9 billion in foreign loans this year, of which 40 percent needs to be serviced during the first three months. It paid back $1 billion this week. A large chunk of Sri Lanka's foreign debt is from China, which considers the island nation to be part of its Belt and Road Initiative. China has heavily invested in Sri Lanka infrastructure such as a seaport, airport and highways. It has invested $1.5 billion in a port city being built on reclaimed land off the island's west coast.

Philippines arrests, hands over to China corruption fugitive

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials have turned over to China a former government official wanted for alleged economic crime and corruption. Xie Haojie (SHEE'-ye hao-JEE'-ye) was arrested on Sunday in Manila in an operation coordinated with Chinese authorities. The 49-year-old is wanted back home on charges of corruption that amounted to $210 million. Officials from the Philippine Bureau of Immigration handed him over Wednesday to China's authorities in Manila for deportation. Li Shulei, vice chairman of China's National Supervisory Commission, says the case involved a huge amount of money that made Xie "a very terrible social influence." Xie was presented to the media in the Philippines but did not make any statement.

German, Japanese leaders to attend Davos as Trump sits out

GENEVA (AP)—World Economic Forum executives say Germany's Angela Merkel, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu and Shinzo Abe of Japan will be among dozens of heads of state and government attending its annual Davos event. Forum executives offered a preview Tuesday of the Jan. 22-26 gathering of political, business, cultural, academic and other elites, with founder Klaus Schwab saying a "re-moralization" of globalization is needed. He said globalization produced many "winners" over the last generation or so. "But now we have to look after the losers, after those who have been left behind." The forum says 65 heads of state and government—including Jair Bolsonaro, who is expected as part of his debut overseas trip as Brazilian president—and about 40 heads of international organizations like U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will be on hand. WEF president Borge Brende said 37 heads of state or government will be from Europe and Eurasia alone. Overall, more than 3,000 people are expected.

South Korea stops paintings brought from North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean officials said Wednesday they have stopped businessmen from bringing North Korean paintings into the country that a report said were purchased at an art studio under U.N. sanctions.

Observers say similar incidents could occur frequently as South Korea's liberal government pushes for deeper exchanges with North Korea.

The Korea Customs Service said it has nine North Korean paintings that an unidentified number of businessmen tried to bring into the country after a trip to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, last November. It said the businessmen did not have the required South Korean government permission to bring in North Korean products.

South Korea's largest newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, reported Wednesday that the paintings were purchased from Pyongyang's Mansudae art studio, which is on a U.N. sanctions blacklist.

The studio is subject to an asset freeze and travel ban because of its dispatch of artists and other workers abroad to do projects to generate revenue for the North Korean government. In its Pyongyang studio, thousands of artists produce propaganda-themed paintings, huge bronze statues, mosaics and watercolors.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which deals with North Korean policy, said it couldn't immediately confirm the Chosun report. Spokesman Baik Tae-hyun said government agencies will determine whether there were violations of U.N. sanctions imposed over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

An earlier investigation of the paintings showed that none contains pro-North Korea propaganda, a customs service official said on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the matter. According to the Chosun report, the paintings were of animals and each cost 300,000-500,000 won ($270-450).

The businessmen were among about 100 people, mostly foreign-based South Korean businesspeople, who made a four-day trip to Pyongyang in mid-November. The customs service official refused to identify them.

Personnel exchanges between the two Koreas have increased sharply since North Korea abruptly began talks early last year with a vague promise of denuclearization. South Korean President Moon Jae-in wants to expand ties with North Korea, but any resumption of stalled large-scale joint Korean economic projects needs to receive an exemption from the U.N. sanctions.

World

Death toll in Nairobi attack climbs to 21, plus 5 attackers

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The death toll from an extremist attack on a luxury hotel and shopping complex in Nairobi climbed to 21, plus the five militants killed, police said Wednesday in the aftermath of the brazen overnight siege by al-Shabab gunmen. Two people accused of facilitating the attack were arrested.

The number of those killed at the DusitD2 complex rose with the discovery of six more bodies at the scene and the death of a wounded police officer, said Joseph Boinnet, inspector-general of Kenyan police. Twenty-eight people were hurt and taken to the hospital, he said.

In a televised address to the nation earlier in the day, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced that the all-night operation by security forces to retake the complex was over and that all of the extremists had been killed.

"We will seek out every person that was involved in the funding, planning and execution of this heinous act," he vowed.

In an attack that demonstrated al-Shabab's continued ability to strike Kenya's capital despite setbacks on the battlefield, extremists stormed the place with guns and explosives. Security camera footage released to local media showed a suicide bomber blowing himself up in a grassy area in the complex, the flash visible along with smoke billowing from the spot where he had been standing.

AP

Mourners bury the body of Abdalla Dahir near to the grave of his colleague Feisal Ahmed, who were both killed in Tuesday's attack, at their funerals in Nairobi, Kenya Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019.

Of the civilian victims, 16 were Kenyan, one was British, one was American and three were of African descent but their nationalities were not yet identified, police said.

Al-Shabab, which is based in neighboring Somalia and allied with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility. The Islamic extremist group also carried out the 2013 attack at Nairobi's nearby Westgate Mall that killed 67 people, and an assault on Kenya's Garissa University in 2015 that claimed 147 lives, mostly students.

While U.S. airstrikes and African Union forces in Somalia have degraded the group's ability to operate, it is still capable of carrying out spectacular acts of violence in retaliation for the Kenyan military's campaign against it.

The bloodshed in Kenya's capital appeared designed to inflict maximum damage to the country's image of stability and its tourism industry, an important source of revenue.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

The government said late Tuesday that buildings were secure. However, gunfire continued into Wednesday morning, and dozens of trapped people were rescued overnight. Several loud booms were heard Wednesday as teams sought to clear the complex of booby traps and other explosives.

Kenyatta's announcement that the security operation was complete came about 20 hours after the first reports of the attack.

The Kenyan Red Cross said about 50 people were unaccounted for. But many of those were believed not to have been in the complex during the attack.

Ken Njoroge, CEO of a company in the DustiD2 complex that offers mobile banking services, said he was unable to locate several employees. "It's very difficult for the families because the passage of time only makes the problem bigger," he said.

The American killed in the attack was identified as Jason Spindler, co-founder and managing director of San Francisco-based I-DEV International. Spindler's father, Joseph, said his son worked with international companies to form business partnerships in Kenya that would boost local economies.

The Houston-raised Spindler had a brush with tragedy on 9/11: He was employed by a financial firm at the World Trade Center at the time of the 2001 terrorist attack but was running late that morning and was emerging from the subway when the first tower fell, according to his father. He became covered in dust and debris as he tried to help others, the elder Spindler said.

In the Nairobi attack, a man who gave only his first name, Davis, described how he had escaped with colleagues by fleeing down a fire escape.

2 US service members, 2 US civilians killed in Syria blast

BEIRUT (AP)—Two U.S. service members and two American civilians were among those killed in an explosion while conducting a patrol in Syria on Wednesday, the U.S. military said, an attack that came less than a month after U.S. President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw troops from the war-torn country.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the morning attack, which local groups said killed 16 people in the U.S.-patrolled town of Manbij.

The claim calls into question Trump's claim that IS has been defeated in Syria—his stated reason for pulling 2,000 American troops out of the country.

"We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency," Trump tweeted in December in announcing his intention to bring back U.S. troops "NOW."

Vice President Mike Pence repeated the claim Wednesday, saying the Islamic State "caliphate has crumbled" and the militant network "has been defeated." His comments in a speech at the State Department came shortly after the U.S. military announced that American soldiers were among those killed in Manbij.

U.S. Central Command said one of the civilians was employed by the Defense Department and the other was a contractor. The names of the American victims were being withheld until their families could be notified.

Video released by local activists and news agencies showed a restaurant that suffered extensive damage and a street covered with debris and blood. Several cars were also damaged. Another video showed a helicopter flying over the area.

A security camera showed a busy street, and then a ball of fire engulfing people and others running for cover as the blast went off.

Trump's shifting timetable for pulling U.S. troops out of Syria, a country he described as "sand and death," has left allies and other players in the region confused and jockeying for influence over a withdrawal strategy that appeared to be a work in progress.

Critics have said a pullout was premature, that IS was still not defeated and a withdrawal could lead to a power vacuum that would fuel even more violence. It also led to the resignation of Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis.

Since then, U.S. officials and Trump himself have suggested the withdrawal would be slower than initially believed. White House national security adviser John Bolton said two conditions would have to be met, including the protection of America's local Kurdish allies in northern Syria, and the total defeat of IS.

Last week, the U.S. military began pulling out equipment from the northeast into neighboring Iraq. No troops are known to have withdrawn yet.

Manbij is highly strategic: It is the main town on the westernmost edge of Syrian territory held by the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds, running along the border with Turkey. Mixed Kurdish-Arab Syrian forces liberated Manbij from the rule of the Islamic State group in 2016 with help from the U.S.-led coalition. But Kurdish control of the town infuriated Turkey, which views the main U.S. Kurdish ally, the YPG militia, as "terrorists" linked to Kurdish insurgents on its own soil.

The town has been at the center of tensions in northern Syria, with the militaries of two NATO members, the U.S. and Turkey, on opposing sides.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN: At least 890 killed in December clashes in Congo

GENEVA (AP)—The U.N. human rights office says "credible sources" indicate that at least 890 people were killed last month during three days of clashes among villages in western Congo. Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. human rights chief, said the perpetrators should be brought to justice over such "shocking violence" that erupted between the Banunu and Batende communities in the Mai-Ndombe province. Her office said it has launched an investigation, along with national authorities in Congo. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in New York that according to the sources, at least 82 other people were injured during the clashes in four villages. The rights office says Wednesday that hundreds of houses and buildings were also burned down or pillaged in the violence, and an estimated 16,000 people sought refuge in neighboring Republic of Congo across the Congo River. The violence from Dec. 16-18 came just days before Congo's presidential election.

Putin blasts US, West over NATO before Serbia visit

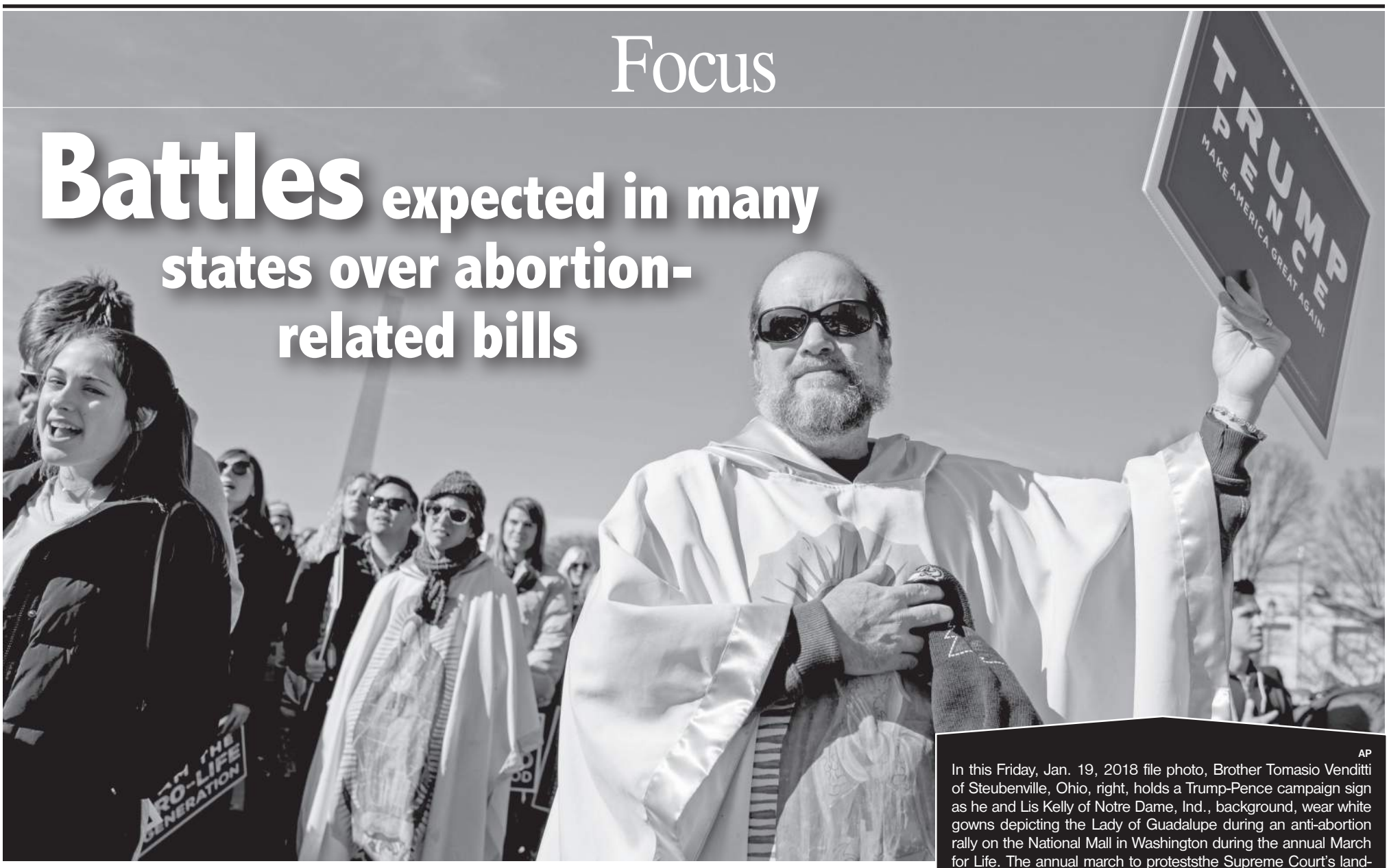
BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Vladimir Putin has accused the U.S. and the West of destabilizing the Balkans with NATO expansionist policies as Serbia prepares a hero's welcome for the Russian president. Putin arrives in Serbia on Thursday for his fourth visit to the Balkan country since 2001. A fountain on Belgrade's main square has been lit in the colors of the Russian and Serbian flags, bookstores in the capital are displaying works about Putin, and a plateau in front of the biggest Orthodox Church in the Balkans is being hastily paved before his planned visit to the temple. Serbia has maintained close links with traditional Slavic ally Russia even as the country formally seeks European Union membership. Belgrade has refused to join Western sanctions against Russia over Ukraine and has promised it will stay out of NATO. Putin told two Serbian pro-government newspapers in an interview published Wednesday that "the policy of the United States and certain Western countries aimed to foster their dominance in the region constitutes a major destabilizing factor."

Unbearable stench: Giant sewage spill befouls Peru's capital

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Amid an unbearable stench, thousands of workers, police and soldiers struggled Wednesday to contain and clean up a flood of sewage that has caused the government to declare a health emergency in one of the most populous parts of Peru's capital. The foul flood was caused by a blockage in a giant pipe that collects 80 percent of the sewage in the San Juan de Lurigancho district. Adding a political element, the pipe was relocated about six years ago by Odebrecht, the Brazilian construction giant that is at the heart of a corruption scandal engulfing elites across Latin America, including Peru. "It has become clogged: strange material has entered the collector," said President Martin Vizcarra, who pledged to find those responsible and declared a health emergency. Vizcarra said the pipe is buried at a depth of nine meters (30 feet) and it "began to sink," with dirty water flowing into low-lying areas of San Juan de Lurigancho, which has more than 1 million inhabitants. More than 100 police officers rode horses through the waters while dozens of giant suction machines pulled up sewage.

Focus

Battles expected in many states over abortion-related bills



AP
In this Friday, Jan. 19, 2018 file photo, Brother Tomasio Venditti of Steubenville, Ohio, right, holds a Trump-Pence campaign sign as he and Lis Kelly of Notre Dame, Ind., background, wear white gowns depicting the Lady of Guadalupe during an anti-abortion rally on the National Mall in Washington during the annual March for Life. The annual march to protestsothe Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decision that declared a constitutional right to abortion.

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—On each side of the abortion debate, legislators and activists emboldened by recent political developments plan to push aggressively in many states this year for bills high on their wish lists: either seeking to impose near-total bans on abortion or guaranteeing women's access to the procedure.

For abortion opponents, many of whom will rally Friday at the annual March for Life in Washington, there's a surge of optimism that sweeping abortion bans might have a chance of prevailing in the reconfigured U.S. Supreme Court that includes Donald Trump's appointees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Legislators in at least five states—Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Florida and South Carolina—are expected to consider bills that would ban abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected, possibly just six weeks into a pregnancy.

Conversely, results of the midterm elections buoyed supporters of abortion rights in several states, including New York, Rhode Island, Maryland, Massachusetts and New Mexico. Abortion-rights groups there are now hopeful that lawmakers will pass bills aimed at protecting access to abortion even if the Supreme Court eventually reversed or weakened the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that established a nationwide right to abortion. Tuesday will mark the 46th anniversary of that ruling.

"With big electoral victories in state legislatures and governorships, many states are now primed to provide the last line of defense for a woman's ability to control her body, life and future," said Andrea Miller, president of the National Institute for Reproductive Health.

Here are some of the notable bills likely to be considered:

PROTECTING ABORTION ACCESS

NEW YORK: For years, Republicans who controlled the New York Senate blocked efforts to codify abortion rights in state law as a bulwark against any undermining of Roe v. Wade. However, Democrats, who have long controlled the legislature's lower chamber, took control of the Senate in the midterms, and are expected to swiftly enact the long-sought protections. Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, easily re-elected to a third term, says the legislation is among his top priorities.

In a recent speech, Cuomo said Trump's Supreme Court nominees "don't even pretend to be objective jurists. They've already announced their intention to impose their morality on the nation and roll back Roe v. Wade."

RHODE ISLAND: Although abortion is readily available in Rhode Island, the state has never removed some decades-old laws that sought to restrict abortion rights. A bill to scrap those old laws, and reinforce the right to abortion in case Roe is reversed, has been reintroduced in the 2019 session after failing the past two years. A co-sponsor, Sen. Gayle Goldin, says chances are better this year because the midterms increased the number of abortion-rights supporters in the legislature.

MARYLAND: Democratic House Speaker Michael Busch says lawmakers will take up a constitutional amendment to protect abortion rights in Maryland, in case protections are overturned or weakened by the Supreme Court or federal government. Maryland passed legislation in 1991 to protect such rights, but supporters of the proposed amendment say it would be a stronger guard against any future legislative efforts to restrict abortion. If the measure wins legislative approval in the Democrat-controlled legislature, it would go before voters in a future election.

MASSACHUSETTS: Last year, the state repealed a 19th century law that banned abortions but had not been enforced. Lawmakers took a next step earlier this month, introducing a bill that would ensure the right to an abortion and for physicians to perform them. The Legislature is controlled by Democrats, and the governor is a Republican who supports abortion rights.

MAINE: A new Democratic governor who supports abortion rights, Janet Mills, has succeeded anti-abortion Republican Paul LePage. Mills would likely sign a recently introduced bill that would require Maine to fund some abortions that are not covered under Medicaid. Democrats control both chambers of the legislature.

NEW MEXICO: Democratic legislators—who control both chambers—are backing a bill that would remove New Mexico's criminal ban on abortion. A 1969 statute made it a felony for an abortion provider to terminate a pregnancy, with exceptions for rape, birth defects and serious threats to a women's health—though the law has been unenforceable since the Roe decision.

Newly inaugurated Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham—who succeeded Republican Susana Martinez—favors overturning the dormant abortion ban.

RESTRICTING ABORTION ACCESS

OHIO: During eight years in office, GOP Gov. John Kasich signed more than 20 anti-abortion bills, but twice vetoed the most draconian measure to reach his desk—the so-called "heartbeat bill" that would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected. But Kasich has now been succeeded by fellow Republican Mike DeWine, who suggests he will sign a heartbeat bill. And the proposal has finally won the endorsement of Ohio Right to Life, which previously considered it too contentious but now believes it has a chance of prevailing in court.

"With the additions of Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, we believe this is the most pro-life court we have seen in generations," said Ohio Right to Life board chairman Marshal Pitchford. "Now is the time to pursue this approach."

KENTUCKY, MISSOURI, SOUTH CAROLINA, FLORIDA: Lawmakers in these states, where Republicans control the legislature and governor's office, also have drafted heartbeat bills for consideration this year.

The South Carolina and Florida measures would require testing for a detectable fetal heartbeat prior to an abortion; anyone performing an abortion after a heartbeat was detected would be guilty of a felony. A similar measure has been filed in Missouri; its potential punishments include fines and suspension or withdrawal of medical licenses.

Kentucky already is entangled in three abortion-related court cases, but Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer said he would be pleased if the heartbeat bill triggered additional litigation.

"I would be proud if it's Kentucky that takes it all the way up to the Supreme Court and we challenge Roe v. Wade," Thayer told reporters. "That would be absolutely the pinnacle of my career in the legislature."

ARKANSAS: Like Kentucky, some of Arkansas' previously approved anti-abortion laws remain caught up in legal fights. But two new measures were filed ahead of the 2019 session: One would toughen requirements for reporting abortion-related complications to state health officials; the other would prohibit doctors from performing an abortion if they know the woman seeks it solely because the fetus is diagnosed with Down syndrome.

Indiana, Louisiana and Ohio previously enacted bans on Down syndrome abortions which have been blocked in federal court. Indiana is asking the Supreme Court to review its case. North Dakota enacted a similar ban in 2013 that has not been challenged; the state's sole abortion clinic says the issue hasn't arisen under its policy of not performing abortions after 16 weeks into a pregnancy.

OKLAHOMA: A Republican state senator, Joseph Silk, has filed a bill that would include abortion in the state's definition of felony homicide, potentially punishable by life in prison. Its chances of advancing are uncertain, but Oklahoma lawmakers did approve a bill two years ago that would have outlawed abortion and imposed prison sentences of up to three years on anyone performing the procedure.

That bill was vetoed by then-Gov. Mary Fallin. She has been succeeded by fellow Republican Kevin Stitt, who declined comment on Silk's bill after it was filed.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Brewery launch is on target in former missile command center

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A new brewery is set to launch in a Cold War-era missile command center near Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports Grist House Craft Brewery has set its sights on a structure known as "the bunker building" at the former Nike missile base. It was one of several U.S. Army-operated bases using anti-aircraft guns and Nike and Hercules missiles to defend Pittsburgh from Soviet attack in the 1950s and 1960s. The building will become the brewery's main production hub. The vast location also will have room for an extensive basement barrel-aging program, a taproom and a retail space. It sits atop one of the highest points in Allegheny County, in Collier Township. The owners recently closed on the building but are keeping the opening date top secret.

Chocolate spill creates sweet hot mess on Arizona highway

FLAGSSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities in northern Arizona had a sweet hot mess on their hands after a tank trucker's trailer detached from the truck and rolled on its side on slick pavement, spilling a river of liquid chocolate onto westbound lanes of Interstate 40. The Arizona Daily Sun reports the wreck Monday about 11 miles (18 kilometers) east of Flagstaff required cleanup crews to pour most of the 40,000 gallons (151,412 liters) of chocolate into the highway median to lighten the damaged tanker so it could be towed away. The chocolate was liquid because it was being stored in the tanker at 120 degrees (49 Celsius). State Department of Public Safety spokesman Bart Graves says there were no injuries. The driver was not cited.

Idaho woman has 50-pound tumor removed

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—An Idaho woman who thought she was gaining weight because of menopause discovered she actually had a 50-pound tumor that had been growing inside her for decades. Boise television station KTVB reports Brenda Cridland of Meridian chalked up her weight gain to aging, but when her health started to quickly decline about eight months ago she decided to see a doctor. That's when a CAT scan revealed she had an enormous tumor that had displaced her organs and was cutting off the blood supply to her brain. Cridland said she underwent two-and-a-half hours of surgery to remove the mass, which luckily was benign. Cridland says she lost 65 pounds in the process, and learned the tumor was caused by undiagnosed endometriosis. She says she ignored red flags about her health, and hopes her story will remind other women that they shouldn't avoid seeing a doctor.

Lawyer: Coat chewing could've thrown off breath test

BERWICK, Pa. (AP)—An attorney for a Pennsylvania woman charged with drunken driving hinted his client's coat-chewing could've thrown off the results of her breath test. The (Bloomsburg) Press Enterprise reports the argument came during a hearing Tuesday for 47-year-old Jana Moschgat. An officer who pulled Moschgat over testified she was nibbling on her coat before he gave her the breath test and that he ordered her to stop. Moschgat's lawyer, Travis Petty, asked the officer if he knew the chemical composition of the coat, noting that certain substances can alter the results of the test. Moschgat's test showed her blood-alcohol level was 0.151 percent, nearly twice the legal limit for drivers in Pennsylvania. The officer says Moschgat also smelled of alcohol and failed a field sobriety test. The judge ruled there was enough evidence to send the charges to trial.

Leave $350 hats at home, NY middle school administrators beg

GREAT NECK, N.Y. (AP)—Administrators at a New York middle school are begging students to leave their winter hats made by Italian apparel company Moncler at home because the pricy tops keep getting lost. The New York Post reports that administrators at Great Neck North Middle School on Long Island wrote a letter to parents asking them to "try and redirect your middle schooler from wearing these hats to school." Moncler's knit hats with fur pom poms cost $350, though kids' sizes are available for less. The Great Neck North administrators said time spent looking for lost Montcler hats has been "disruptive to the students' focus and time." Parent Elissa Siony said the letter was "silly." She told the Post, "If they lose it and freak out, they freak out."

Michael Flynn, Sean Spicer become neighbors in Rhode Island

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. (AP)—Former White House press secretary Sean Spicer has bought a house in Rhode Island, and his new neighbor is a familiar face from their days together in the Trump administration: former national security adviser Michael Flynn. The Newport Daily News, citing public records, reported that the sale closed Jan. 2, and Spicer paid $795,000 for the 1,800-square-foot Middletown home, which has four bedrooms and three bathrooms. Representatives for Spicer did not immediately return messages seeking comment. The house is across the street and three doors down from Flynn's home, in a neighborhood that's a short walk to the beach. Flynn is awaiting sentencing on his guilty plea to lying to the FBI about his Russian contacts. Spicer grew up in nearby Barrington.

Rare 1943 bronze Lincoln penny sells for $204,000

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A rare 1943 bronze Lincoln penny has sold for more than $200,000 at a Florida auction. Heritage Auctions says more than 30 people bid on the rare coin Thursday night. Only 10 to 15 of these pennies, mistakenly minted in bronze instead of steel, are believed to exist. They were made at a time when bronze and copper were being saved to fill metal shortages during World War II. The auction house says Don Lutes found the penny in his pocket as a teenager in 1947 after getting some change at his high school cafeteria, and held onto it ever since. Lutes died in September. He directed all proceeds from the sale to be donated to the Berkshire Athenaeum at the public library in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Silicon Valley landlord rents $1,500 studio to 2 cats

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Two cats are living large at a $1,500-a-month studio apartment their owner rents for them in Silicon Valley, where a housing shortage has sent rents skyrocketing. The Mercury News reports the 20-pound (9-kilogram) cats named Tina and Louise moved to the studio in San Jose after their owner moved away to college. The student's father, Troy Good, was unable to keep them and asked friend David Callisch to rent him the kitchen-less studio so he could keep his daughter's beloved cats. The newspaper reports Good and his cats got a decent deal because an average studio apartment in San Jose rents for $1,951 a month, according to RentCafe.

Science & Technology

Robot recreates the walk of 290-million-year-old creature

WASHINGTON (AP)—How did the earliest land animals move? Scientists have used a nearly 300-million-year old fossil skeleton and preserved ancient footprints to create a moving robot model of prehistoric life.

AP

This undated photo provided by researchers in January 2019 shows the OroBOT, based on an Orobates Pabsti fossil. Scientists have used a nearly 300-million-year old skeleton and preserved ancient footprints to create the moving robot model of prehistoric life.

Evolutionary biologist John Nyakatura at Humboldt University in Berlin has spent years studying a 290-million-year-old fossil dug up in central Germany's Bromacker quarry in 2000. The four-legged plant-eater lived before the dinosaurs and fascinates scientists "because of its position on the tree of life," said Nyakatura. Researchers believe the creature is a "stem amniote"—an early land-dwelling animal that later evolved into modern mammals, birds and reptiles.

Scientists believe the first amphibious animals emerged on land 350 million years ago and the first amniotes emerged around 310 million years ago.

The fossil, called Orabates pabsti, is a "beautifully preserved and articulated skeleton," said Nyakatura. What's more, scientists have previously identified fossilized footprints left by the 3-foot-long (90 cm) creature.

Nyakatura teamed up with robotics expert Kamilo Melo at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne to develop a model of how the creature moved. Their results were published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The researchers built a life-size replica of the prehistoric beast—"we carefully modeled each and every bone," said Nyakatura—and then tested the motion in various ways that would lead its gait to match the ancient tracks, ruling out combinations that were not anatomically possible.

They repeated the exercise with a slightly-scaled up robot version , which they called OroBOT. The robot is made of motors connected by 3D-printed plastic and steel parts. The model "helps us to test real-world dynamics, to account for gravity and friction," said Melo. The team also compared their models to living animals, including salamanders and iguanas.

Video of robot.

Technology such as robotics, computer modeling and CT scans are transforming paleontology, "giving us ever more compelling reconstructions of the past," said Andrew Farke, curator at the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology in Claremont, California, who was not involved in the study.

Based on the robot model, the scientists said they think the creature had more advanced locomotion than previously thought for such an early land animal. (Think more scampering than slithering.)

Feds to ease rules on drone flights over crowds and at night

Federal officials plan to ease restrictions on flying small drones over crowds and at night, which would give a boost to the commercial use of unmanned aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration outlined draft rules Monday that would let drone operators do those things without a special waiver from current rules.

For example, waivers for night flights would no longer be needed for operators who go through special training and put anti-collision lighting on their drones.

It's not clear how long it might be before the FAA's easing goes into effect. The FAA said it won't take final action until it finishes another regulation regarding remote identification of small drones, which analysts say could be years away.

Critics have charged that the FAA has stymied the commercial use of drones by taking the rigid approach to safety involving airliners and applying the same standard to the operation of small drones.

Regulators say they are trying to balance the commercial possibilities of drones with the potential threat they pose to safety and privacy.

Companies including CNN and insurance provider State Farm have won waivers to operate drones over people and out of the view of the device's operator. Pro-drone groups, however, argue that forcing companies to get waivers from the FAA is holding back beneficial technology for use in agriculture, energy and many other industries.

A major trade group of drone users praised Monday's development. Brian Wynne, president of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, said that allowing widespread operations over people without a waiver "will allow more operators to harness the great potential" of unmanned aircraft.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, whose department includes the FAA, sought to straddle the commerce-versus-safety debate.

"The department is keenly aware that there are legitimate public concerns about drones," Chao said in remarks to a transportation group. The rules released Monday, she added, "will be a major step forward in enabling the safe development, testing and deployment of drones in our country."

The proposal to let operators fly drones over crowds or at night without a special waiver will be put out for public comment as soon as possible.

In its draft rules, the FAA proposed to divide drone operations by weight, the potential for each unmanned vehicle to cause injuries if it crashes, and other factors.

Life & Style

Bob Costas exiting longtime home at NBC Sports

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bob Costas, who stepped down as NBC's prime-time Olympics host two years ago, has left the network's sports division altogether.

NBC Sports said Wednesday that Costas parted ways with his longtime employer, providing no further details.

A representative for Costas didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

AP

In this Nov. 10, 2016, file photo, NBC sportscaster Bob Costas appears before an NFL football game between the Baltimore Ravens and the Cleveland Browns, in Baltimore.

Costas, 66, served as the emcee for NBC's Olympics 11 times starting in 1992. In early 2017, he stepped aside for network newcomer Mike Tirico, formerly with ESPN.

When the switch was announced in early 2017, Costas said he had decided on his own that the time was right for a change. He said then he wanted to do long-form programming and commentary on special events, likening his new role to what former NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw does for the network.

On Tuesday, Costas told the New York Post of his decision to leave NBC Sports, saying his departure was settled "quietly and happily for all concerned."

In August 2018, the paper reported that he was no longer satisfied with his role at NBC and a contract that limited his participation in other projects.

Costas, who joined NBC Sports in 1979, has covered baseball, football and basketball and horse racing as well as served as the face and voice of the Olympics.

He plans to continue working on the MLB Network and is interested in doing an interview show focusing on sports and news, the Post said.

Carell, 'Office' producers reteam for 'Space Force' comedy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steve Carell is starring in a new workplace comedy that could be out of this world.

Netflix said Wednesday that Carell is re-teaming with "The Office" producers Greg Daniels and Howard Klein on the series "Space Force."

It's about the people assigned to create a sixth branch of the armed services focused on space, the streaming service said.

The premise is grounded in reality: Last year, the Trump administration directed the Pentagon to form a Space Command aimed at the creation of a Space Force branch.

Carell and Daniels are the sitcom's co-creators and will serve as executive producers along with Klein.

Daniels co-created NBC's 2015-13 "The Office," based on the original Ricky Gervais-Stephen Merchant U.K. mockumentary series.

AP

This image released by NBC shows presenter Steve Carell during the 76th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Chicago inspectors find code violations at R. Kelly's studio

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago building inspectors have found code violations at R. Kelly's recording studio, including evidence the industrial space was used as a residence.

Building Department spokesman Gregg Cunningham says the agency will list the violations during a court hearing next week. He says the inspectors were looking at plumbing, electrical systems and carpentry.

Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenburg, says no one was living at the studio and it should not be surprising that it included places for sleeping or taking breaks.

Kelly has been hit in recent weeks with sexual misconduct allegations. The Lifetime documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly" recently drew fresh attention to the allegations and the #MeToo and #MuteRKelly movements have held protests outside the studio demanding promoters stop booking his concerts.

Greenburg says the inspectors didn't find anything supporting misconduct by Kelly.

Colbert, Maddow are coveted slots for presidential wanna-bes

NEW YORK (AP)—Kirsten Gillibrand is hitting the television daily double this week. The New York senator announced her presidential candidacy on Stephen Colbert's "Late Show," following it up with an MSNBC interview Wednesday with Rachel Maddow.

Her itinerary reflects the importance of those two media figures to the expected crowd of Democrats seeking President Donald Trump's job. They are dream bookings for campaign aides.

Gillibrand followed Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who was interviewed by Maddow on Jan. 2. California Sen. Kamala Harris and former Housing Secretary Julian Castro have appeared with Colbert over the past month, but only Gillibrand earned a special "I announced on the 'Late Show with Stephen Colbert'" pin.

Colbert's withering comic take on Trump has taken him to the top of late-night ratings. Since targeting Trump hardly makes him unique among TV comics, his success gives the "Late Show" particular cache. So far this season he's averaging 3.76 million viewers a night, compared to 2.49 million for NBC's Jimmy Fallon and 2.07 million for ABC's Jimmy Kimmel, according to the Nielsen company.

Grandma-to-be can't muster enthusiasm she wants to feel

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law, "Eden," is married to my daughter. Eden is now pregnant via artificial insemination. I will never meet the donor and know almost nothing about him. Could this be why I don't have the enthusiasm for this pregnancy that I should have, since the baby will be my first grandchild?

I feel guilty that I'm not excited. I'm wondering if it's because there is no blood connection, but neither would there be if the baby were adopted. Eden is due in a month. We live close by, and I need to generate some enthusiasm. Any suggestions?

GRANDMA-IN-WAITING

DEAR GRANDMA: Yes. Start by doing all the things you would if you WERE excited about this grandchild. Be as participatory as your daughter and daughter-in-law will allow. If you do, while I can't guarantee that you will feel a bond with the baby, your chances of forming one will be greater. And please stop feeling guilty. Relationships take time to build, and this is no exception.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are facing a big decision: whether to move to a better school district for our daughter. The one we're in doesn't rate high, and yes, we can afford to move to a more elite area. So what is holding us back? Our wonderful neighbors!

They are our best friends. Our husbands are close, and it's the same with our kids—even the dogs. We vacation together and take turns carpooling to school in the mornings. They have welcomed my daughter into their home, and ditto for us and their children. Are we fools to walk away from such contentment and love?

HEAVY DECISION IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HEAVY DECISION: If you and your friends are close for reasons other than geography and convenience, your relationship with them should be a lasting one. However, your daughter's education should come first, and if they are true friends, they will understand why you are making the move.

DEAR ABBY: As someone on a second marriage, may I point something out to your readers? An engagement is not marriage. People need to take a hard look at the person they are choosing to spend the rest of their lives with, and understand that they cannot change another person. Red flags should be addressed DURING THE ENGAGEMENT. That little annoyance will grow and has the potential to blossom into a huge issue.

Counseling can be wonderfully useful, but bear in mind it can take several tries to find a counselor who clicks with you. Take it from me, divorce is horrible and can cause damage that can never really be undone.

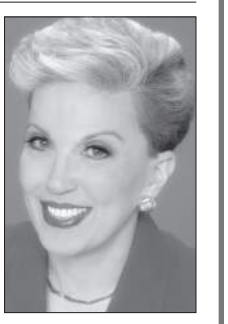
EXPERIENCED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR EXPERIENCED: You're right; problems don't solve themselves, and people in love don't always think rationally. However, I hope they will pay attention to your excellent advice because I couldn't have said it better myself.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE IN VERY BIG TROUBLE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU GET ON THE SCHOOL BUS?! NOW I'VE GOT TO DRIVE YOU, AND YOUR DAD WILL BE LATE FOR WORK!
YOU'VE INCONVENIENCED EVERYONE! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?!
GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH, ZOGWARG QUEEN!
DON'T TEMPT ME! AND LISTEN, YOU CALL ME "MOM," ...GOT IT?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM! I THOUGHT YOU'D STOPPED PLAYING THAT GAME.
I KNOW!
IT'S TAKEN OVER, LAURA! IT'S LIKE AN ELECTRONIC POSSESSION!
BLIP BLIP BLIP
I... I THINK THIS MAY REQUIRE AN EXORCISM.
BLOP BLIP
OR YOU COULD UNINSTALL IT.
I'VE TRIED! SUMMON THE GEEK SQUAD!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

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BUT IF YOU ACT NOW...
WE'LL SEND YOU A SECOND VEGGIE-MAULER, JUST PAY SHIPPING AND HANDLING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

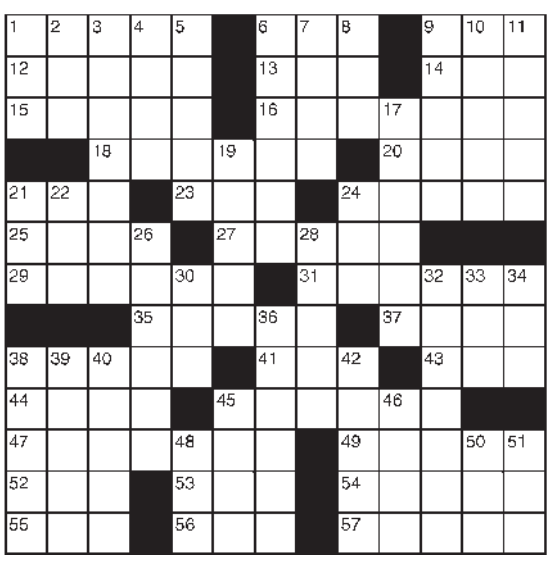
ACROSS
1 Civil-rights org.
6 Crunchy sandwich
9 Eastern "way"
12 D-Day beach
13 Kanga's kid
14 Pirates' quaff
15 Stopwatch
16 "Charlotte's Web" author
18 Van Gogh painting
20 Black, in verse
21 Lass
23 Pouch
24 Raiment
25 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
27 Bush
29 Refines, as ore
31 Decrees
35 Void
37 Old U.S. gas brand
38 "West Side Story" song
41 Stashed
43 Science room
44 Shortly
45 Party snack
47 "The War of the Worlds" author
49 Did yard work
52 Enzyme suffix
53 Granola grain
54 Speak one's mind
55 USPS delivery
56 "— Clear Day"
57 Egg holders

DOWN
1 Word of denial
2 French pal
3 "Winnie-the-Pooh" author
4 "Moonstruck" actress
5 Seine city
6 Rifle part
7 High tennis shots
8 AAA job
9 Navajo or Hopi
10 Ones for the road?
11 Signs
17 Disney's "Love Bug"
19 Impudent
21 Ozone, for one
22 Branch
24 Flop
26 Broadway's Stritch
28 Pine product
30 TV schedule abbr.
32 "The Chronicles of Narnia" author
33 Airport screening org.
34 Weep
36 California peak
38 Taj —
39 Uneasy feeling
40 Crew member
42 Matt of Hollywood
45 Family
46 Francis, e.g.
48 Privy
50 Tolkien creature
51 — Moines

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	E	A	-		H	U	H		E	A	H	P
E	-	S	A		A	R	E		A	C	E	R
A	B	I	T		N	I	A		R	A	N	I
N	E	A	T	E	N		P	E	T	D	O	G
			E	L				T	H	E		
H	A	M	S		B	A	L	S	A	M	I	C
M	A	I			A	X	E			I	N	N
M	I	C	H	E	L	L	E		S	C	A	N
		R	A	P			G	N	U			
H	O	O	R	A	Y		R	O	B	B	E	D
A	B	B	A		A	V	A		M	A	R	A
L	I	E	S		N	I	N		I	B	I	D
L	E	S	S		K	I	I		I	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 1-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Segel, 39; Jesse L. Martin, 50; Mark Messier, 58; Kevin Costner, 64.

Happy Birthday: Trust only what you know to be fact. You'll meet individuals who will tempt you by coloring situations and using persuasive tactics. Don't be too eager to initiate change unless you first analyze what's required. When in doubt, back away from whatever situation you encounter. Don't let others choose for you, regardless of how helpful they appear to be. Your numbers are 6, 10, 21, 29, 31, 33, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Choose a physical outlet and blow off steam. Put disappointments on the back burner for the time being. Once you have had time to rethink your strategy, you will come up with a much better plan of attack. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make a decision and finish what you start. What you accomplish will make you feel good about who you are and what's yet to come. Learn from an expert and poise yourself for a new beginning. Personal gains are heading your way. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Pay closer attention to important relationships. Someone you come in contact with cannot be trusted. Do your homework and verify any information you are given. Romance is on the rise, along with changes to the way you live. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Look over your personal documents and make sure you have everything in order. You are likely to find a discrepancy between the assets you thought you had and what you do have. Don't leave anything to chance. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Participate in activities that will challenge you physically. What you achieve will make you feel good and bring you closer to people you find stimulating. Love and romance are in the stars, and special plans to celebrate should be made. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participate in programs that interest you. Mingling with people who can challenge you as well as spark your imagination will motivate you to strive for something you've never considered in the past. Don't let an emotional incident hold you back. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Stick close to the people who are willing to help you or stand by your side. Making a couple of personal changes will help you realize what it is you want to do next. Don't let someone monopolize your time. 5 stars

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Follow your creative dreams. Set up a special place at home where you can work on a project that sparks your imagination. A reunion will bring back memories and a renewed interest in something you used to love to do. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Avoid any sort of indulgent behavior if you want to stay out of trouble. Stick close to home and rearrange your surroundings to accommodate a project you want to take on. Take better care of your health and your personal relationships. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Friends and relatives will try to coax you to participate in joint ventures. Don't feel obligated to participate in something that you don't feel is beneficial. Physical activity should be fun, not risky. Choose peace over discord. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take care of business, and move on to pleasurable endeavors. Your ability to get others to see things your way will help you get what you want. A romantic plan will bring you closer to someone special. Personal improvements are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful who you are dealing with. Someone will offer incorrect information or give you a false impression of what's being offered or what's known. Rely on resources you can trust before you get involved in a joint venture. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, steadfast and reliable. You are opportunistic and a self-starter.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4			3			
		1			6			
3	8	7	9			4		
					5	3	8	
			6					
2	4	9						
		1		5	8	7	9	
		2		4				
		3		7				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	5	6	7	2	4	8	1	3
4	8	2	1	3	9	7	6	5
3	1	7	5	8	6	9	2	4
6	9	4	3	5	7	2	8	1
8	3	5	6	1	2	4	9	7
7	2	1	4	9	8	3	5	6
2	6	3	8	4	5	1	7	9
5	4	9	2	7	1	6	3	8
1	7	8	9	6	3	5	4	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

REMEMBERING THE MOVIE 'BIG' Solution: 10 letters

S	C	Z	H	Y	O	C	O	M	E	D	Y	N	G	S
K	K	R	H	N	R	A	I	S	E	P	O	I	N	D
N	C	A	T	N	H	S	U	R	C	S	T	K	I	R
A	E	W	E	E	C	N	E	R	W	A	L	S	G	A
H	P	H	B	P	E	R	K	I	N	S	R	A	N	W
M	O	C	A	I	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	O	A
O	K	S	Z	S	L	R	E	T	S	E	T	T	L	D
T	R	O	I	I	U	L	A	A	I	G	G	O	L	U
J	O	A	L	H	O	S	Y	T	R	U	T	H	A	L
A	B	F	E	O	L	U	A	P	L	W	I	S	H	T
R	E	A	C	L	A	R	K	N	H	O	J	O	S	H
E	R	R	U	S	H	T	O	N	C	N	Z	K	R	O
D	T	O	D	E	T	N	A	R	G	A	R	Y	A	O
S	E	S	U	O	H	W	A	L	K	I	N	G	M	D
M	I	S	S	L	L	A	B	N	I	P	E	P	S	I

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Adulthood, Awards, Baskin, Billy, Business, Clark, Comedy, Cool, Crush, Elizabeth, FAO Schwarz, Gary, Granted, Heard, House, Jared, John, Josh, Kopeck, Lawrence, Loggia, Longing, Marshall, Miss, Oscar, Paul, Penny, Pepsi, Perkins, Piano, Pinball, Raise, Robert, Ross, Rushton, Susan, Tester, Tom Hanks, Toy, Truth, Walking, Wish, Zoltar Speaks

Yesterday's Answer: Handwriting

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

How Super Bowl matchup will be determined

With just four teams left in the NFL playoffs, facing off in their respective conference championship games Sunday, it's not only the star players and obvious trends that will determine the outcomes. In each game, there are players, coaches and tactics simmering below the surface that will help determine who advances to Super Bowl LIII.

Here are two X-factors for each team in the conference title games.

New England Patriots at Kansas City Chiefs

PATRIOTS

Pressure or fall back?

New England's plan of sending blitzers while clamping down on receivers in man coverage worked brilliantly against the Chargers in the divisional round. But the Patriots will likely have to alter those tactics against the Chiefs.. According to NFL Next Gen Stats, New England pressured Philip Rivers on 70.6 percent of his dropbacks, the highest rate he's faced in any game this season. While Rivers' numbers against pressure were significantly worse than when he wasn't, Mahomes has excelled when facing a blitz. He posted the league's second-best quarterback rating (117.7) and the third-best yards per attempt (8.9) against the blitz in 2018. Rather than using additional bodies to dial up pressure, coach Bill Belichick and defensive play-caller Brian Flores may try to slow Kansas City's explosive passing game by utilizing complex coverages.

Covering Kelce

In New England's 43-40 win over Kansas City in Week 6, Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce caught just five of nine targets for 61 yards. Two of those receptions came in consecutive plays in the first series and resulted in 26 yards, but Kelce was pretty much a non-factor the rest of the way. Safeties Devin McCourty and Patrick Chung played a big role in helping keep the four-time Pro Bowl selection contained, but they had plenty of help. The Patriots often double-teamed Kelce – especially when the Chiefs were in the red zone, but often the responsibility fell on players like linebacker Dont'a Hightower and cornerback Jonathan Jones. On Sunday, a repeat performance will likely take another team effort.

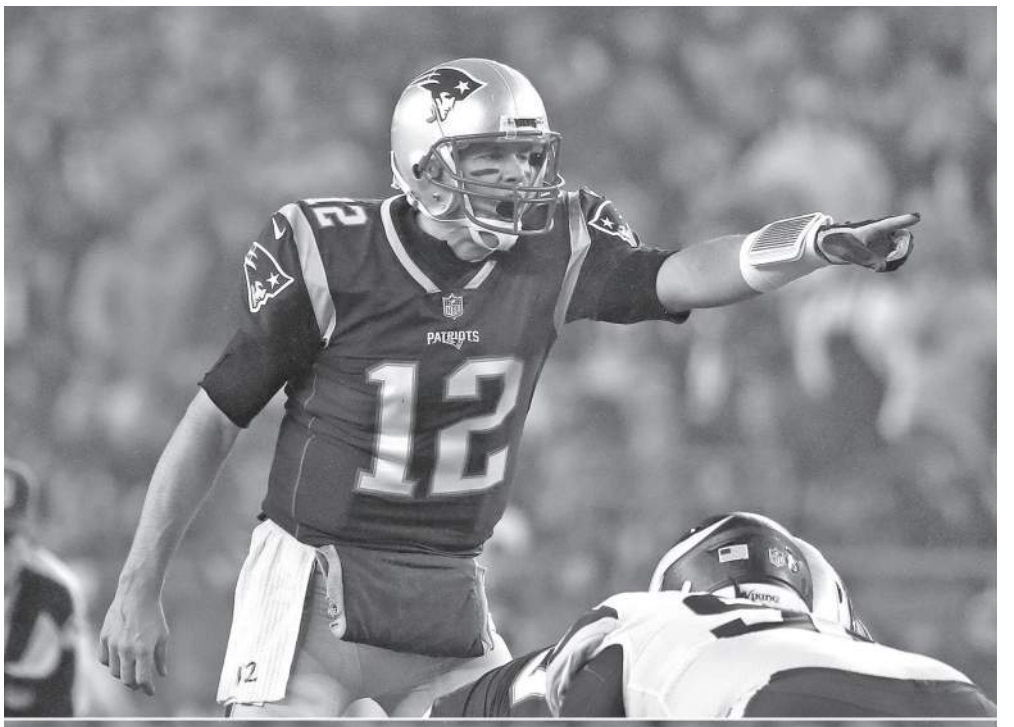
CHIEFS

Rushing defense

This is perhaps the one vulnerability New England is best poised to exploit. The Chiefs ranked 27th in rushing defense, allowing 132.1 yards per game on the ground. The Patriots, over their last seven games, have averaged 158.1 rushing yards per game. In particular, the emergence of rookie running back Sony Michel and the continued improvement of New England's offensive line have allowed the Patriots to become a team whose offensive identity is rooted to the ground attack. That ability helps open up play-action passes, so if the Chiefs can't contain the Patriots' rush game, they may have trouble keeping New England out of the end zone.

Getting in Brady's face

While the front seven yields too many rushing yards, this group collects sacks almost at will. Kansas City tied for first this season with 52 total and collected three more on Colts quarterback Andrew Luck in the divisional round – against the offensive line that led the regular season with the fewest sacks allowed (18). Typically, the surest way to fluster Brady in the past has been to generate pass rush on the interior of the Patriots offensive line. That's where defensive end Chris Jones comes in. If he can penetrate through the middle, he could disrupt the timing and rhythm of the Pats offense.



AP

On top, in a Dec. 2, 2018, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady directs teammates at the line of scrimmage during an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass. Bottom, in a Jan. 12, 2019, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) calls a play at the line of scrimmage during the first half of an NFL divisional football playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts in Kansas City, Mo.

Los Angeles Rams at New Orleans Saints

RAMS

Running back C.J. Anderson

In the 2018 calendar year, three teams (the Broncos, Panthers and Raiders) parted with Anderson. Los Angeles signed him late in the season as a backup to Todd Gurley and as insurance after Malcolm Brown got hurt. All Anderson has done in three games with the Rams, including one playoff contest, is rush for 422 yards on 66 carries (for 6.4 yards a carry) and four touchdowns. If L.A. can get the rushing game going, it might be their best chance at an upset. The Saints, however, ranked second in the NFL this year, allowing just 80.2 rushing yards a game. But if the Rams can move the ball on the ground, they'll control the clock and keep Drew Brees and New Orleans off the field.

Cornerback Aqib Talib

Saints receiver Michael Thomas destroyed the Rams when these two teams faced off in Week 9 for 12 receptions for 211 yards and one score. Because Talib was on injured reserve at the time with an ankle injury, it was Marcus Peters who had to guard Thomas most of the game. With Talib not only healthy but also playing at an extremely high level, look for defensive coordinator Wade Phillips to try to slow Thomas down by matching him up with his top corner. He may even ask Talib to shadow Thomas all game long.

SAINTS

Getting the ball out quickly

Brees has had arguably his most efficient season in his career. A large part of his success stems from his ability to get the ball out of his hands quickly and into those of his playmakers. Including the playoffs, Brees tossed passes this season in an average of 2.59 seconds, third-quickest in the NFL. His touchdown-to-interception ratio on passes released in fewer than 2.5 seconds this year was 18:3. The Rams, though, have been solid against quick throws. They've allowed a passer rating of 86.5 (fourth) and a 7:8 TD-to-interception ratio on throws faster than 2.5 seconds. That tempo is one of the cornerstones of New Orleans' attack. If Brees and Co. can dictate the pace of the game, the Rams could be in trouble.

Right guard Larry Warford and right tackle Ryan Ramczyk

The Rams yielded an NFL-worst 5.1 rushing yards a carry in the regular season, though they did shut down the Cowboys and NFL rushing leader Ezekiel Elliott in the divisional round. Even though Brees and Thomas draw most of the praise heaped on the Saints offense, running backs Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram can completely take over games. Kamara is shifty, speedy and can score on any given play. Ingram is the bruiser in between the tackles. But New Orleans loves running off of the right side. In 2018, the Saints ran 72 rushing plays behind the right tackle, most in the NFL, and 105 plays behind the right guard, second most. Maximizing the production on those plays against Los Angeles may be the key to a trip to the Super Bowl.

AP

The Los Angeles Rams, left, and New Orleans Saints at the line of scrimmage in the second half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

Nets down Rockets, spoil Harden's monster game

HOUSTON (AP) — Spencer Dinwiddie scored 25 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and overtime and the Brooklyn Nets spoiled James Harden's 58-point night with a 145-142 victory over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday.

Harden had his second straight season high after scoring 57 in a victory over Memphis on Monday night, but was only 5 of 19 from 3-point range. The Rockets shot an NBA-record 70 3s, making just 23.

Harden has scored at least 30 points in 18 straight games and has reached 40 in nine of the last 12. He was 16 of 34 overall from the field, made 21 of 23 free throws and had 10 rebounds and six assists.

Dinwiddie forced overtime, making three 3-pointers in the last 30 seconds of regulation. In the extra period, he hit the go-ahead basket with 28 seconds left.

After Harden made three free throws to give the Rockets a one-point lead, James Nunnally—who signed a 10-day contract Wednesday—hit a 3-pointer to make it 142-135 with 1:28 left.

Treveon Graham made a 3 for Brooklyn and Jarrett Allen made a basket but missed a free throw to cut the lead to 142-140. But the Nets grabbed a rebound and Dinwiddie, who had seven points in OT, made a three-point play to put Brooklyn up 143-142. Austin Rivers missed a 3 for Houston, and Joe Harris made two free throws to make it 145-142 with 1.6 seconds left.

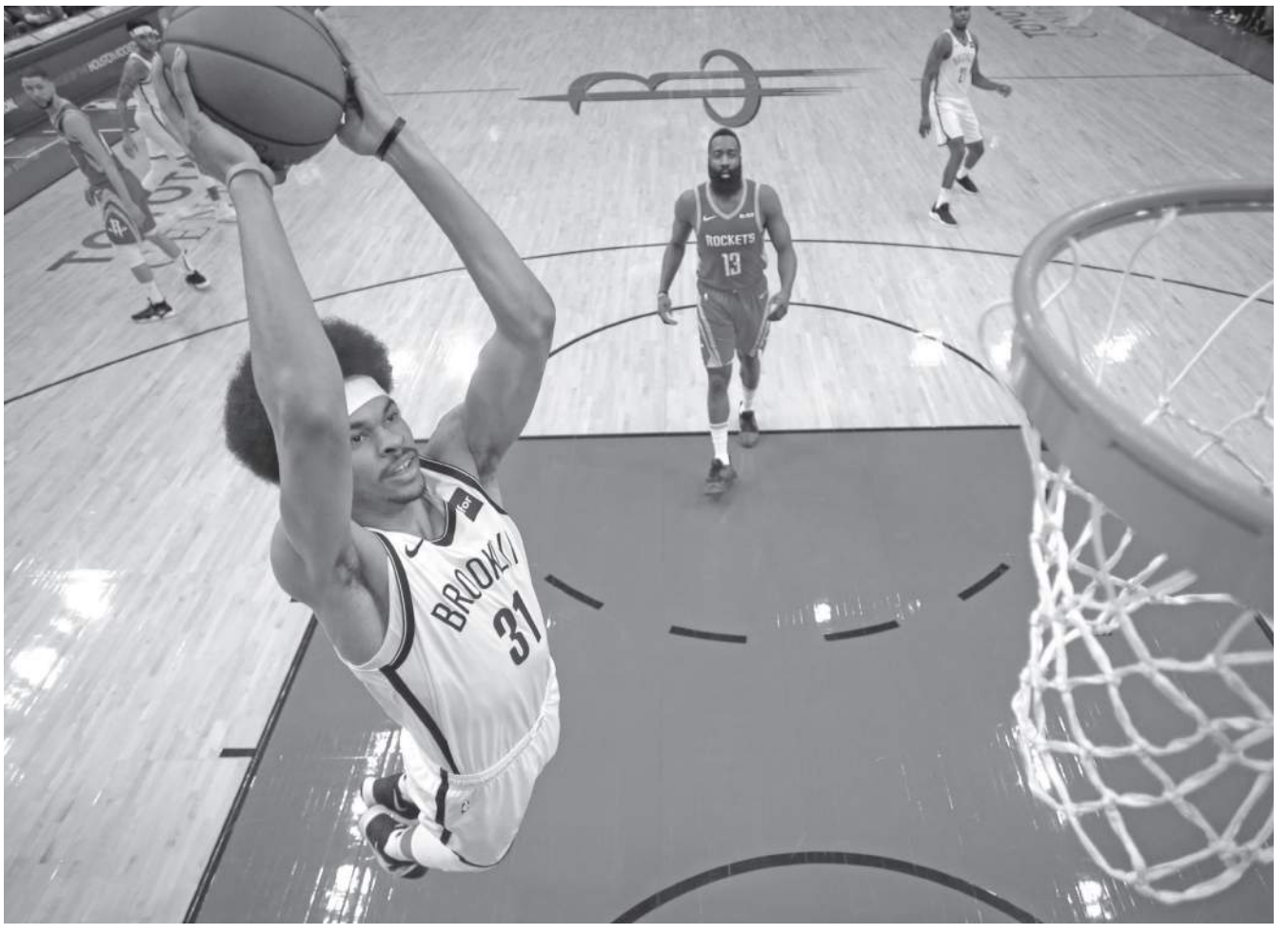
Houston had a chance to tie it at the buzzer, but Gerald Green's shot clanged off the rim.

The Rockets broke their own record for 3-point attempts after shooting 61 against New Orleans on Dec. 16, 2016. Houston also holds the record for most 3-pointers made after hitting 26 in a win over Washington this season. Green, who did not attempt a 2-point basket, made 5 of 15.

The Rockets were up by 11 with about 2 1/2 minutes left when Brooklyn used a 9-3 run to get to 127-122 with about 30 seconds left.

P.J. Tucker made two free throws after that, and Dinwiddie made a 3 for Brooklyn with 26.2 seconds remaining to cut it to 128-125. Harden made one of two free throws, and Dinwiddie struck again with another 3 about five seconds later to get Brooklyn within one.

Tucker missed two free throws, but Harden grabbed a rebound with 12.7 seconds left. He made both free throws, and Dinwiddie made a third straight 3-pointer to tie it up with 8.4 seconds left. Harden had a chance to win it in regulation, but his 3-point attempt bounced off the rim.



AP

Brooklyn Nets' Jarrett Allen (31) goes up for a dunk against the Houston Rockets during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019, in Houston.

Blazers 129, Cavaliers

In Portland, Jusuf Nurkic had 10 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double and the Trail Blazers beat the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Damian Lillard had 33 points to lead all scorers, and CJ McCollum had 19 points as Portland snapped a two-game losing streak. Nurkic added five blocks and was treated to a standing ovation when he left the game with 2:13 left.

Portland finished with 16 3-pointers, led by Lillard with four.

Jordan Clarkson had 22 points off the bench for the Cavaliers, who were coming off a 101-95 victory over the Lakers that snapped a 12-game losing streak. The game against the Blazers was the fourth of a six-game trip for the Cavs.

Jazz 129, Clippers 109

In Los Angeles, Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points and the Utah Jazz defeated the Clippers for their first five-game winning streak of the season.

Mitchell, coming off Western Conference player of the week honors, has averaged 30.3 points over his last six games.

Jae Crowder added 23 points, Rudy Gobert had 23 points and 22 rebounds and Kyle Korver had 19 points for the Jazz, who had six players in double figures.

Leading by 16 to start the fourth, Utah got three consecutive 3-pointers, including two by Korver, to go up 104-81.

Celtics 118, Raptors 107

In Boston, Kyrie Irving said he regretted criticizing his younger teammates, then he made a call to a former teammate he also owed an apology.

The Celtics point guard said on Wednesday that he called LeBron James over the weekend to apologize for failing to understand the burden the four-time NBA MVP carried when they played together on the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"I had to call Bron, and tell him I apologize for being that young player that wanted everything at his fingertips," Irving said after the Celtics beat the Toronto Raptors 118-107 on Wednesday night. "I wanted to be the guy that led us to a championship. I wanted to be the leader. I wanted to be all that."

Returning after missing the previous game with a bruised right leg, Irving hit a foul-line fadeaway to give Boston the lead for good, then hit a 31-foot 3-pointer to finish with 27 points.

Spurs 105, Mavericks 101

In Dallas, Davis Bertans hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:41 left, and the San Antonio Spurs rallied from a 19-point first-half deficit to beat the Mavericks.

The Spurs blew a six-point lead in the final period, but Bertans made his third 3-pointer of the quarter for a 99-96 lead and San Antonio led the rest of the way.

Bertans finished with 12 points. Six Spurs scored at least 12 points, led by Marco Belinelli's 17.

Bucks 111, Grizzlies 101

In Memphis, the Milwaukee Bucks are doing more than just winning. They are dominating opponents.

The Bucks won their third straight game and 14th of the last 17 after beating the Memphis Grizzlies.

The victory marked the 23rd time the Bucks have won by double-digits and they entered the game with a 16.2-point winning margin in their previous 13 victories.

Sharapova, Wozniacki to meet in 3rd round

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—A side effect of not playing much for Maria Sharapova is the likelihood of having to face highly ranked rivals in the first week of a major.

It doesn't come much tougher in the third round than a match against the defending champion.

That's the equation at the Australian Open after Sharapova and Caroline Wozniacki beat Swedish players in straight sets on the same court—technically on different days.

The third-ranked Wozniacki had a 6-1, 6-3 win over Johanna Larsson to finish the day session on Margaret Court Arena before the sun went down. No. 30 Sharapova finished off Rebecca Peterson 6-2, 6-1 a half-hour past midnight, having waited for a five-set men's match to finish.

"It'll be a tough one but I've set up the challenge—willing to go out there and take it," Sharapova told the crowd, after reminding them it was well past her bed time.

Sharapova leads 6-4 in career head-to-heads, but they haven't played each other since 2015 and Wozniacki has won both previous times they have met at Grand Slams—in the fourth round of the U.S. Open in 2010 and 2014.

Both players have been ranked No. 1, but Sharapova has won five Grand Slam titles, including two as a teenager. She won the Australian Open in 2008 and has reached the final at Melbourne Park three other times—all before Wozniacki won her first major title.

Still, she hasn't been past the quarterfinals of a major since returning at the 2017 U.S. Open after an absence of more than 1½ years because of a doping ban.

AP
Russia's Maria Sharapova makes a forehand return to Sweden's Rebecca Peterson during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019.

It's a run she's determined to rectify.

Asked if Wozniacki was the favorite to win, Sharapova chose her words carefully in response: "I mean, relatively speaking on paper, if you're looking at numbers, yeah, absolutely."

But while Sharapova concedes favoritism based on rankings, and that Wozniacki is more confident now that she's won a major title, she's got credentials that outweigh her seeding.

She didn't play after a fourth-round exit at the U.S. Open last September in order to give her problematic right shoulder a rest. And she retired during a quarterfinal match at a warmup event in Shenzhen, China, as a precaution against any further injury.

"If I'm looking at the past season, I only played 11 tournaments. What I really wanted was matches," she said. "Yeah, I want to be playing the top players. When you're 30 in the world, 31, whatever I am right now, I'm going to be facing a top player in the third round. That's the way the seeding goes.

"What I need, I need to be able to set myself up for the next round, and the next round is against Wozniacki."

Meanwhile, Kei Nishikori could joke about it later, saying he faced more aces in one match from Ivo Karlovic than he himself would serve in a year.

Eighth-seeded Nishikori withstood 59 aces from Karlovic, and had to save three break points in a crucial 10th game of the fifth set, before beating the 39-year-old Croatian 6-3, 7-6 (6), 5-7, 5-7, 7-6 (7) to reach the third round.

The 2014 U.S. Open finalist dropped to his hands and knees after the tiebreaker, relieved to secure his spot.

He hasn't made it easy on himself at Melbourne Park, having to come back from 0-2 down to win his opening match in five sets. He won the first two against Karlovic, but dropped the 11th games of the third and fourth sets and was taken again to a fifth.

"I was down love-40. He almost had it," the 29-year-old Japanese player said. "One serve and it could have gone his way."

Of course, he was asked about the aces—Karlovic had 59 aces and 98 unreturned serves; Nishikori had 9 aces.

"That's almost my one-year aces," Nishikori joked. "Never easy. Kind of frustrating if you can't get the serve like three in a row."

To force a fifth, Karlovic, who is 2.11 meters (6 foot, 11 inches) tall, had served six aces in a row. Two from 30-30 in the 10th game and then another four to close after breaking Nishikori's serve to close out the fourth set.

After trailing 4-1 in the 10-point tiebreaker—a new addition at the Australian Open this year and then taking a 7-6 lead thanks to a video replay review at 6-6—Karlovic was closing in becoming the oldest man since Ken Rosewall in 1978 to reach the third round at the Australian Open.

But Nishikori stepped it up, winning the last three points and sparking chants of "Nishikori, Nishi-kori" from a section of Japanese fans at Margaret Court Arena.

"I had to reload in the fifth," he said. "It was really tough. Could go both ways. I was down 7-6 in the tiebreak. I really returned well—focussed well the last couple of points.

"We both played great tennis—and he served really well. I'll try to carry on this confidence to the next round."

After missing last year's Australian Open because of injury, Nishikori made the fourth round at the French Open, the quarterfinals at Wimbledon and the semifinals in New York. He's hoping to go a round further this time.

Rain showers halted play on all courts soon after Nishikori's win, forcing organizers to close the roofs of the three main show courts.

Earlier, Karolina Pliskova extended her winning start to the season after a rain-interrupted 4-6, 6-1, 6-0 win over Madison Brengle.

She'll next play No. 27 Camila Giorgi, who beat Iga Swiatek 6-2, 6-0.

Madison Keys, the 2017 U.S. Open finalist, had a 6-3, 6-4 win over Anastasia Potapova to set up a third-round match against No. 12-seeded Elise Mertens, who beat Margarita Gasparyan 6-1, 7-5.

Keys has reached the semifinals in three of the last five majors and is gaining in confidence in Australia.

WTA Finals winner Elina Svitolina beat Viktoria Kuzmova 6-4, 6-1 in 67 minutes, No. 13 Anastasija Sevastova beat teenage Canadian qualifier Bianca Andreescu 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 and No. 21 Wang Qiang Wang had a 6-2, 6-3 win over Aleksandra Krunic.

Hsieh Su-wei advanced 6-3, 6-4 over Laura Siegemund, who had beaten two-time champion Victoria Azarenka in the first round.

Top-ranked Simona Halep was playing Sofia Kenin later Thursday, and seven-time Australian Open champion Serena Williams was set to meet Eugenie Bouchard in a night match.

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic, a six-time Australian titlist, was playing Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in a rematch of the 2008 final in the last match on Rod Laver Arena.

Woods to start year at Torrey Pines, again

SAN DIEGO—It's a perfect fit.

As expected, Tiger Woods will make his 2019 debut in the Farmers Insurance Open at his beloved seaside Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. The tournament announced Woods' commitment Wednesday.

The tournament begins Jan. 24.

Torrey Pines in a favorite stomping ground for Woods, who has started most of his campaigns there dating back to 2006. Woods, who often attended the Andy Williams San Diego Open at Torrey Pines with his father back in his childhood days, has won the Farmers Insurance Open on seven occasions, the most recent coming in 2013.

Woods also won the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines with a broken left leg and severe ligament damage in his left knee. It was his most recent of 14 triumphs in major championships.

Woods, who turned 43 last month, is No. 12 in the official world golf rankings. He last played in the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas in December, where he finished 17th in the 18-man field. Before that, he lost The Match in Las Vegas to Phil Mickelson on Thanksgiving weekend.

Making his return to the game following spinal fusion surgery in April 2017, Woods' capped his remarkable 2017-18 wraparound PGA Tour season by winning The Tour Championship in Atlanta, his most recent of 80 Tour titles and his first victory on the PGA Tour since 2013. He had six other top-6 finishes, including a tie for sixth in the British Open and a second in the PGA Championship.

Woods played 18 events last season—the most since he played 19 in 2012. He also played in the Ryder Cup, The Match and the Hero World Challenge. In the Bahamas, Woods, who will captain the U.S. squad in the Presidents Cup in December, said he won't play as much this season.

"I played in too many this year, and that was from adding an event because I missed the cut at (the Genesis Open) to qualifying to get into Akron (the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational)," Woods said. "All those events took a toll."

Woods has not unveiled his 2018-19 schedule. Currently, Woods said he's committed to playing in five events in addition to the Farmers Insurance Open—the Genesis Open, which is run by and benefits his foundation, and the four major championships.

Woods joins a star-studded field that includes defending champion Jason Day, current world No. 1 and reigning FedExCup champion Justin Rose, 2017 Farmers winner Jon Rahm, Xander Schauffele, Rory McIlroy, Tony Finau, Rickie Fowler, Marc Leishman and Jordan Spieth.

Machado's agent denies White Sox offered $175M deal

CHICAGO— Hours after ESPN's Buster Olney reported the Chicago White Sox offered Manny Machado a seven-year, $175 million deal, Machado's agent referred to the report as "inaccurate and reckless" on Wednesday.

Dan Lozano sharply criticized Olney and USA Today's Bob Nightengale for their reporting on Machado's free agency situation. Nightengale tweeted on Wednesday that the White Sox made the offer two weeks ago and see no reason to bid against themselves.

"The truth is that their reports on the details of the White Sox level of interest in Manny are completely wrong," Lozano said in a statement.

Lozano strongly asserted that violations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement may have occurred.

"I don't know if their sources are blatantly violating the Collective Bargaining Agreement by intentionally misleading them to try and affect negotiations through the public or are just flat out lying to them for other reasons," Lozano said.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Manny Machado, left, tries to tag Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts out at second base during the first inning of Game 1 of the World Series baseball game Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018, in Boston.

"I am well aware that the entire baseball universe; fans, players, teams and media members alike; are starved for information about this free agent market for all players, including Manny. "But I am not going to continue to watch the press be manipulated into tampering with, not just with my client, but all of these players' livelihoods as they have been doing this entire offseason."

Machado and Bryce Harper are the two marquee players of the free agent class and both remain unsigned.

Numerous reports claim the White Sox are among the pursuers of both players. The Philadelphia Phillies have also been mentioned as being interested in both players.

But progress toward a deal has been glacier slow this offseason and Lozano sees it as part of the reason for inaccurate reporting.

"The absence of new information to report is no excuse to fabricate "news" or regurgitate falsehoods without even attempting to confirm their validity and it is a disservice to baseball fans everywhere when the media does just that," Lozano said.

Machado, who played his first six seasons with the Baltimore Orioles before a mid-July trade to the Los Angeles Dodgers, had been reported to be seeking a contract in the 10-year, $300 million-plus range.

Machado, who has played shortstop and third base in the majors, is a career .282 hitter with 175 home runs and 513 RBIs. He twice has been in the top five in Most Valuable Player voting.

Last season, he hit .297 with a career-high-tying 37 home runs and career-high 107 RBIs combined between the Orioles and Dodgers. He also sported a .367 on-base percentage, above his .335 career average, and his .538 slugging percentage exceeded his career figure of .487.

Meanwhile, in Phoenix, the Arizona Diamondbacks have agreed to a one-year, $3.75 million contract with former New York Mets infielder Wilmer Flores, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the agreement had not been announced. The deal includes a $6 million club option for 2020 with a $500,000 buyout.

The 27-year-old Flores spent his entire six-year career playing a variety of infield positions with the Mets. He played 83 of 126 games at first base last season, hitting .267 with 11 home runs and 51 RBIs.

The Diamondbacks traded All-Star first baseman Paul Goldschmidt to St. Louis, but will likely shift Jake Lamb from third to first.

The Diamondbacks also acquired infielder/outfielder Tim Locastro from the New York Yankees for minor league left-hander Ronald Roman.

SIS

From Page 32

The TanHoldings Tennis Classic was scheduled in November, about a month after the super typhoon hammered Saipan and Tinian. Organizers were forced to call off the tournament to give way to the relief and recovery efforts in the community. The event was supposed to be the season-opening tournament of Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association for the 2018-2019 calendar.

With the TanHoldings Tennis Classic scrapped, Saipan was without a local tournament since May, while some CNMI players went off-island for regional competitions from July to August.

Meanwhile, the SIS STUCO-hosted event will serve as warm-up for the 2019 Coconut Tennis Classic that will be held next month.

CAROL

From Page 32

just be the first person from her tiny island of Saipan to achieve the feat," Clarke wrote on her Facebook post, which was swamped with congratulatory remarks for Lee.

The world No. 152 had her opening game in the qualifier last Wednesday and took only two sets to beat South Africa's Myah Petchey, 6-1, 6-4. Up next for Lee was Australia's Natasha Russell, who moved into the second round after pulling off an upset over No. 7 seed and Russia's Avelina Sayfetdinova, 7-6, (3), 4-6, 6-2.

The battle for one of the eight qualifying slots went down-to-the wire in the first set with Lee eking out a 7-6 (5) win. Then in the second set, Russell seemed to have regained her bearings when she jumped to a 2-0 lead. However, Lee, who missed making it to the main draw of her first tournament (last week's 2019 AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International) in Australia this year, won't be denied for the second time, as the CNMI bet went berserk in the succeeding plays to complete the sweep, 6-2.

With the victory, Lee, who was seeded No. 15, became the lowest-ranked player among the eight qualifiers. No. 2 Federica Rossi of Italy led the qualifiers list, which also had her compatriot and No. 10 Lisa Pigato, No. 11 Valentina Ivanov of New Zealand, No. 9 Saki Imamura of Japan, No. 5 Martyna Kubka of Poland, No. 8 Maria Krupenina and No. Veronika Pepelyaeva of Russia.

The eight qualifiers will join the 46 players who were earlier lined up in the main draw, which has yet to be posted at the ITF Juniors website as off press time. The main draw will be released tonight at the welcome dinner for players at the Bayview Eden Hotel.

New multi-sports complex for 2019 Pacific Games

Construction of the new multi-sports complex in Apia is ongoing in preparation for the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.

An aerial shot of the facility was posted at the Pacific Games website yesterday, showing the beams in place and its surrounding areas being cleared. Local organizers said that it's only a matter of time before the multi-sports complex gets its roofing and other features. Badminton and netball games will be played at the new facility, which is expected to be completed in May or two months before Samoa hosts the Pacific Games.

The quadrennial competition will run from July 7 to 20 with 26 events to be contested by 22-member island nations.

The CNMI has initially committed to send athletes in swimming, athletics, canoe (va'a), golf, basketball (3x3), and weightlifting tournaments in Samoa, while the Commonwealth's badminton group has also shown interest in playing in this summer's competition.

SAMOA PACIFIC GAMES PHOTO

An aerial view of the under construction multi-sports complex shows the beam in place at the facility in Apia, Samoa, which will host the 2019 Pacific Games.

Meanwhile, Samoa organizers have tied up with the National Health Services to develop a medical and health services plan for the Games. A medical services subcommittee has been created to ensure the activation and oversight of all polyclinics and sports venues medical response teams. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

LADY

From Page 32

victory in straight sets.

The Lady Geckos' Maria Gregoire closed out the match with a string of five serves, while her teammates rallied together on defense during her streak, providing the former the opportunities she needed to score in the deciding moments. Sally Lai, Sevina Hwang, and Cindy Kim also displayed their serving prowess for SIS throughout the second and final set.

Noreen Vidal, on the other hand, was the lone bright spot for the Lady Knights in the second set, as she was able to make multiple overhand serves and spikes in a losing effort.

Earlier in the opening set, Malika Miyawaki showcased her versatile skillset, as she successfully converted many of her spikes and serves into points to give SIS a good start. Cindy Kim and Lai then also helped increase the Lady Geckos' lead with the latter delivering the serve that closed the curtains in the first set.

Meanwhile, one more match was played at the Lady Geckos' turf with Grace Christian Academy also notching a straight set victory over SIS 2, 25-17, 25-12.

In other results, MCS' varsity team manhandled Agape Christian School in the girls division match at the latter's court in Gualo Rai, 25-17, 25-16. In the boys division, it was Agape's turn to get the win after edging the Knights in two closely fought sets, 25-21, 29-27.

The Knights hope to bounce back from the sorry loss to Agape when they take on SIS at the Geckos home court this afternoon. In the girls division match, it will be SIS 2 versus Agape. Other matches today will have SIS battling MCS varsity and GCA dueling MCS junior varsity in the girls division.

Including today's games, there is one more week left for the league's regular season, while make-up matches are also scheduled for next week. The start date of the playoff round has yet to be determined.

How Super Bowl matchup will be determined

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nets down Rockets, spoil Harden's monster game

PAGE 29

Carol in Grand Slam event

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee poses next two the pole where the CNMI flag is raised yesterday at the Traralgon Tennis Association in Melbourne, Australia. Lee is the first CNMI player to compete in the main draw of the 2019 Australian Open Juniors Championships.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

History was made yesterday when Carol Lee qualified for the main draw of the 2019 Australian Open Juniors Championships.

Lee earned a slot to the Grade A event after notching two victories in the qualifying tournament at the Traralgon Tennis Association in Melbourne, Australia, making her the first player from the CNMI to play in a Grand Slam competition. A Grand Slam contest is the highest-ranked event under the ITF Juniors Circuit, sharing the same distinction with the Youth Olympics, as this kind of competition awards as much as 1,000 (singles) and 750 (doubles) ranking points.

An ecstatic Jeff Race, the Commonwealth junior team's coach, confirmed Lee's historic feat and wished the 16-year-old good luck in the prestigious tournament, which will start its main draw matches tomorrow at the Melbourne Park. It's the same venue of the Grand Slam event for the pros featuring Serena Williams, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, and other famous tennis players.

"Carol is now the first player from the NMI to play in a Grand Slam singles event. Go Carol!" Race said.

Roxanne Caitlin Clarke, who is Lee's coach at the International Tennis Federation/Oceania Tennis Federation training center in Fiji, also has praises for the CNMI player.

"So proud of Carol Young Suh Lee for fighting through the qualifiers and making it to the main draw of the Australian Open Juniors. She may

See CAROL on Page 30

Lady Geckos slither past Lady Knights

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan International School 1 warded off Mount Carmel School's junior varsity team in two sets, 25-17, 25-13, during the girls high school division match in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Wednesday at Lady Geckos court in As Lito.

While MCS JV showed some flashes of brilliance in the game, SIS' commitment to being consistent with the fundamentals allowed the hosts to cruise to a home

See LADY on Page 30

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Saipan International School 1 coach Mili Saiki huddles with her players during a timeout in their game against Mount Carmel School's junior varsity team in the CCOPSA volleyball league last Wednesday at the SIS court in As Lito.

SIS to host tennis tournament next week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament will be held next weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Tournament organizer Malika Miyawaki said that although the competition will be hosted by SIS STUCO, the event is open to all interested players. There will be games in the boys U12 and girls U14 singles, boys/girls U18 singles and U12 and U18 mixed doubles and matches will be played on Jan. 26. The mini tennis (for U10 players) will take place on Jan. 17 at 1:30pm.

"They (players) can print out the form or get the form from SIS or any of the STUCO members or coach Jeff Race. This competition is a fundraiser for SIS," Miyawaki said.

The SIS student, who also played for the CNMI Junior National Team, said they decided to host a tournament to give the island's youth players a chance to get back into action after a long break

"We decided to host this because TanHoldings Tennis Classic got canceled due to Super Typhoon Yutu and we knew that it would be nice for the junior players to have an opportunity to play some matches," the U18 player said.

See SIS on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School's Steven Goodwin makes a forehand return to his opponent during the 2017 TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts. SIS will be hosting a tournament next week, giving junior players an opportunity to compete after the 2018 edition of the TanHoldings Tennis Classic was canceled due to Super Typhoon Yutu.